



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



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

**YEAR 18 - NUMBER 2
OF 20TH APRIL 2023
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,
- 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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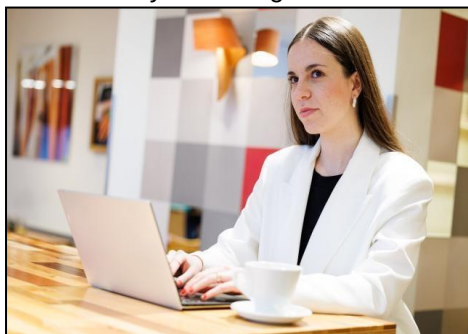
1. Enabling digital education and providing digital skills

The Commission adopted two proposals for a Council Recommendation in the context of the European Year of Skills, with the aim to support Member States and the education and training sector in providing high-quality, inclusive and accessible digital education and training to develop the digital skills of European citizens.

The proposals address the two main common challenges jointly identified by the Commission and EU Member States: the lack of a whole-of-government approach to digital education and training, and difficulties in equipping people with the necessary digital skills.

Strengthening key enabling factors

Despite progress and some excellent examples of innovation, combined efforts have so far not resulted in systemic digital transformation in education and training. Member States still struggle



to attain sufficient levels of investment in digital education and training infrastructure, equipment and digital education content, digital training (up-skilling) of teachers and staff, and monitoring and evaluation of digital education and training policies. The proposal for a “Council Recommendation on the key enabling factors for successful digital education and training” calls on all Member States to ensure universal access to inclusive and high-quality digital education and training, to address the digital divide, which has become even more apparent in the light of the COVID-

19 crisis. This could be achieved by creating a coherent framework of investment, governance and teacher training for effective and inclusive digital education. It proposes guidance and action that Member States can pursue to implement a whole-of-government and multi-stakeholder approach as well as a culture of bottom-up innovation and digitalisation led by education and training staff.

Improving digital skills teaching

The second common challenge identified relates to the varying levels of digital skills within different segments of the population, and the ability of national education and training systems to address these differences. The proposal for a “Council Recommendation on improving the provision of digital skills in education and training” tackles each level of education and training. It calls on Member States to start early by providing digital skills in a coherent way through all levels of education and training. This can be ensured by establishing incremental objectives and setting up targeted interventions for specific ‘priority or hard-to-reach groups’. The proposal calls on Member States to support high quality informatics in schools, to mainstream the development of digital skills for adults, and to address shortages in information technology professions by adopting inclusive strategies. The Commission stands ready to support the implementation of both proposals by facilitating mutual learning and exchanges among Member States and all relevant stakeholders through EU instruments, such as the Technical Support Instrument. The Commission also promotes digital education and skills through cooperation within the European Digital Education Hub and through EU funding, such as Erasmus+ and the Digital Europe Programme, the Just Transition Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus and the Recovery and Resilience Facility, Horizon Europe, and NDICI-Global Europe.

Pilot for a European Digital Skills Certificate

A key action by the Commission will be facilitating the recognition of certification of digital skills. To this end, the Commission will run a pilot project of the European Digital Skills Certificate together with several Member States. The certificate aims to enhance the trust in and acceptance of digital skills certification across the EU. This will help people have their digital skills recognised widely, quickly and easily by employers, training providers and more. The results of the pilot will be presented as part of a feasibility study on the European Digital Skills Certificate towards year-end. The final European Digital Skills Certificate will be rolled out in 2024 based on the pilot's outcomes and the study's findings.

Next Steps

The Commission calls on Member States to swiftly adopt proposals for two Council Recommendations. Building on the successful Structured Dialogue and the group of national coordinators, the Commission will set up a High-Level Group on Digital Education and Skills to support the implementation of the two Recommendations.

Background

The two proposals draw on the conclusions of the Structured Dialogue on digital education and skills, during which the Commission engaged with EU Member States throughout 2022. Through the Digital Decade the EU aims to ensure that 80% of adults have at least basic digital skills and that 20 million ICT specialists are in employment in the EU by 2030. The objective of the dialogue was to increase the commitment on digital education and skills and help accelerate efforts at EU level, so Europe can deliver on its 2030 targets in this area. The proposals are furthermore in line with the solidarity and inclusion key pillar of the European digital rights and principles stating that everyone should have access to the internet and to digital skills, with no one left behind. The proposals deliver on the two strategic priorities of the Digital Education Action Plan: fostering the development of a high-performing digital education ecosystem and enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation. The Action Plan calls for greater cooperation at European level on digital education to address the challenges and opportunities of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to present opportunities for the education and training community (teachers and students), policy makers, academia and researchers on national, EU and international level. It is a key enabler to realising the vision of achieving a European Education Area by 2025, and contributes to achieving the goals of the European Skills Agenda, the European Social Pillar Action Plan and the 2030 Digital Compass. By promoting and improving digital skills of Europeans, today's package is also a key deliverable of the European Year of Skills. The proposal builds on the analysis conducted by the Commission's Joint Research Centre identifying the main lessons and trends that have emerged through the Structured Dialogue, the Call for Evidence and the Resilience and Recovery Plans by EU Member States.

2. Cyber: towards stronger EU capabilities

The Commission has adopted a proposal for the EU Cyber Solidarity Act to strengthen cybersecurity capacities in the EU. It will support detection and awareness of cybersecurity threats and incidents, bolster preparedness of critical entities, as well as reinforce solidarity, concerted crisis management and response capabilities across Member States.

The Cyber Solidarity Act establishes EU capabilities to make Europe more resilient and reactive in front of cyber threats, while strengthening existing cooperation mechanism. It will contribute to ensuring a safe and secure digital landscape for citizens and businesses and to protecting



critical entities and essential services, such as hospitals and public utilities. The Commission has also presented a Cybersecurity Skills Academy, as part of the 2023 European Year of Skills, to ensure a more coordinated approach towards closing the cybersecurity talent gap, a pre-requisite to boosting Europe's resilience. The Academy will bring together various existing initiatives aimed at promoting cybersecurity skills and will make them available on an online platform, thereby increasing their visibility and boosting the number of skilled cybersecurity

professionals in the EU. Under the European Security Union, the EU is committed to ensuring that all European citizens and businesses are well protected, both online and offline, and to promoting an open, secure and stable cyberspace. Yet, the increasing magnitude, frequency and impact of cybersecurity incidents represent a major threat to the functioning of network and information systems and to the European Single Market. Russia's military aggression against Ukraine has further exacerbated this threat, along with the multiplicity of state-aligned, criminal and hacktivist actors involved in current geopolitical tensions. Building on a strong strategic, policy and legislative framework that is already in place, the proposed EU Cyber Solidarity Act and the Cybersecurity Skills Academy will further contribute to enhancing detection of cyber threats, resilience and preparedness at all levels of the EU's cybersecurity ecosystem.

EU Cyber Solidarity Act

The EU Cyber Solidarity Act will strengthen solidarity at Union level to better detect, prepare for and respond to significant or large-scale cybersecurity incidents, by creating a European

Cybersecurity Shield and a comprehensive Cyber Emergency Mechanism. To detect major cyber threats quickly and effectively, the Commission proposes the establishment of a European Cyber Shield, which is a pan-European infrastructure composed of national and cross-border Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the EU. These are entities tasked with detecting and acting on cyber threats. They will use state-of-the-art technology, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced data analytics, to detect and share timely warnings on cyber threats and incidents across borders. In turn, authorities and relevant entities will be able to respond more efficiently and effectively to major incidents. These centres could be operational by early 2024. As a preparatory phase of the European Cyber Shield, in April 2023 the Commission has selected, under the Digital Europe Programme, three consortia of cross-border Security Operations Centres (SOC), bringing together public bodies from 17 Member States and Iceland. The EU Cyber Solidarity Act also includes the creation of a Cyber Emergency Mechanism to increase preparedness and enhance incident response capabilities in the EU. It will support: preparedness actions, including testing entities in highly critical sectors (healthcare, transport, energy, etc.) for potential vulnerabilities, based on common risk scenarios and methodologies.

Creating a new EU Cybersecurity Reserve consisting of incident response services from trusted providers pre-contracted and therefore ready to intervene, at the request of a Member State or Union Institutions, bodies and agencies, in case of a significant or large-scale cybersecurity incident. Providing financial support for mutual assistance, where a Member State could offer support to another Member State. Moreover, the proposed Regulation establishes the Cybersecurity Incident Review Mechanism to enhance Union resilience by reviewing and assessing significant or large-scale cybersecurity incidents after they have taken place, drawing lessons learned and where appropriate, issuing recommendations to improve Union's cyber posture. The total budget for all actions under the EU Cyber Solidarity Act is of EUR 1.1 billion, of which about 2/3 will be financed by the EU through the Digital Europe Programme.



EU Cybersecurity Skills Academy

The EU Cybersecurity Skills Academy will bring together private and public initiatives aimed at boosting cybersecurity skills at European and national levels, making them more visible and helping to close the cybersecurity talent gap of cybersecurity professionals. The Academy will initially be hosted online on the Commission's Digital Skills and Jobs platform. Citizens interested in pursuing a career in cybersecurity will be able to find training and certifications from across the EU in a single place online. Stakeholders will also be able to pledge their support to improve cybersecurity skills in the EU by initiating specific actions, such as offering cybersecurity trainings and certifications. The Academy will evolve to include a common space for academia, training providers and industry helping them to coordinate education programmes, trainings, funding, and monitor the evolution of the cybersecurity job market.

Certification Schemes for Managed Security Services

The Commission has also proposed a targeted amendment to the Cybersecurity Act, to enable the future adoption of European certification schemes for 'managed security services'. These are highly critical and sensitive services provided by cybersecurity service providers, such as incident response, penetration testing, security audits and consultancy, to assist companies and other organisations prevent, detect, respond or recover from cyber incidents. Certification is key and can play an important role in the context of the EU Cybersecurity Reserve and the Directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union (NIS 2 Directive), facilitating also the cross-border provision of these services.

Next Steps

The European Parliament and the Council will now examine the proposed Regulation on the EU Cyber Solidarity Act, as well as the targeted amendment to the Cybersecurity Act. The European Cybersecurity Competence Centre will organise a joint procurement of tools and infrastructures with the selected cross-border Security Operations Centres to build cyber detection capabilities. The EU Cybersecurity Agency (ENISA) and the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre will continue working on cybersecurity skills, contributing to the implementation of the Cybersecurity Skills Academy, in line with their respective mandates, and in close cooperation with the Commission and the Member States. The Commission proposes that the Academy takes the shape of a European digital infrastructure consortium (EDIC), a new legal framework to implement multi-country projects. This possibility will now be discussed with Member States. It is

also necessary to ensure that professionals undertake required quality trainings. In this regard, ENISA will develop a pilot project, exploring the set-up of a European attestation scheme for cybersecurity skills.

Background

With the proposed EU Cyber Solidary Act, the Commission responds to the Member States' call to strengthen EU cyber resilience, and delivers on its commitment expressed in the recent Joint Cyber Defence Communication to prepare an EU Cyber Solidarity Initiative. The EU Cyber Solidary Act and the Cybersecurity Skills Academy build upon the EU Cybersecurity strategy as well as the EU's legislative framework to bolster the EU's collective resilience against increasing cybersecurity threats. This includes the Directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union (NIS 2) and the Cybersecurity Act.

3. Update of marketing standards of agri-food products

The Commission proposed to revise the existing marketing standards applicable to a number of agri-food products, such as fruit and vegetables, fruit juices and jams, honey, poultry or eggs.

The proposed revisions should help consumers make more informed choices for a healthier diet and contribute to prevent food waste. The Commission put forward the following proposals, among others: Origin labelling: Clearer, mandatory origin labelling rules for honey, nuts and dried fruits, ripened bananas, as well as trimmed, processed and cut fruit and vegetables (such as packaged salad leaves). The country, or countries of origin in case of blends or mixes, will have to appear on the label. Listing the countries of origin will increase the transparency for



consumers. This should also promote EU production of these products. Food waste: The proposed revisions address food waste and packaging waste. For example, so-called “ugly” fruit and vegetables (with external defects but still suitable for local/direct consumption) sold locally and directly by producers to consumers would be exempted from complying with marketing standards. Valorising them in their “fresh” state could offer consumers more opportunities to buy fresh fruit and vegetables at more affordable prices and benefit producers active in short supply chains. Certain products

affected by natural disasters or other exceptional circumstances may also be sold if safe to consume. Packaging: Products intended for donation may be exempted from main labelling requirements. This will reduce red tape and labels and, therefore, facilitate operators' engagements in donations. Fruit juices: it will be possible for fruit juices to bear the mention “with no added sugars” to clarify that, contrary to fruit nectars, fruit juices cannot by definition contain added sugars – a feature that most of the consumers are not aware of. Moreover, to address the growing consumer demand for products with lower sugar content, a reformulated fruit juice would be allowed to indicate “reduced-sugar fruit juice” on its label. To simplify further and adapt to consumer tastes, the term “coconut water” could now be used alongside “coconut juice”. Jams and marmalades: the fruit content of jams will be increased from 350 grammes to 450 grammes minimum (to 550 grammes for quality extra) per kilo of finished product. With the increase in fruit content across the board, consumers would be offered a product with less free sugars and more fruits than they currently get. The term “marmalade”, authorised until now only for citrus jams, would now be allowed for all jams to introduce the possibility to adjust the name of the product to the most used locally. Eggs: Solar panels may now be used in outdoor areas used in free-range production systems for eggs. This will stimulate greater supply of energy from renewable sources. The marking of eggs would also be done directly at the farm which will improve traceability.

Next steps

The proposals for fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs and poultry are covered by delegated and implementing acts. The texts will be available for public feedback for one month. Afterwards, the delegated acts will be adopted and sent to the European Parliament and the Council for a scrutiny period of two months. The Commission will publish them at the end of this procedure.

Proposals covering jams, marmalades, fruit juices and honey are included in directives, and these will follow the ordinary co-legislative process by the European Parliament and Council before their publication and entry into force. In parallel, the Commission is sending a report to the European Parliament and the Council in view to adopt in a near future new marketing standards for cider and perry, and for the origin labelling of pulses. These products are currently not covered by any marketing standards in the Common Market Organisation Regulation.

Background

EU marketing standards are designed to ensure that the quality of the product stays high, that consumers are protected and that standards are consistent within the EU market. They also facilitate trade with third countries as they are consistent with existing standards at international level since the 1950s. Over the last decade, agricultural markets have evolved significantly, driven by innovation but also changing societal concerns and consumers' demand. This proposals will ensure that, in line with the Farm to Fork strategy and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, marketing standards can contribute to the promotion and uptake of sustainable products, while addressing new needs of consumers and operators. To be placed on the EU markets and sold to consumers, most agri-food products must comply with EU marketing standards or standards established at international level. Marketing standards concern the external qualities of products and the non-visible qualities that result from particular production processes, like fruit content in jams. They apply equally to both EU products and imported products.



4. Commission further cuts red tape for merging businesses

The European Commission has adopted a package to further simplify its procedures for reviewing concentrations under the EU Merger Regulation. The package includes: a revised Merger Implementing Regulation (Implementing Regulation), a Notice on Simplified Procedure (Notice), and a Communication on the transmission of documents (Communication).

This package is expected to bring significant benefits for businesses and advisers in terms of preparatory work and related costs. It aims to simplify and expand the scope of the Commission's review process of unproblematic mergers ('simplified cases'). It also seeks to reduce the amount of information required for notifying transactions in all cases and to optimise the transmission of documents. As such, this package contributes to achieving the Commission's objective to reduce reporting requirements by 25%, as announced in its Communication on Long-term competitiveness of the EU. The new rules will be applicable as of 1 September 2023.

Main changes of the 2023 merger simplification package

The main changes to the previous rules seek to simplify and streamline both the simplified and normal merger review procedure. In particular, the new rules: Expand and/or clarify which cases can be treated under the simplified procedure. The Notice identifies two new categories of cases



that can benefit from simplified treatment. These are cases where under all plausible market definitions: the individual or combined upstream market share of the merging parties is below 30% and their combined purchasing share is below 30%; and the individual or combined upstream and downstream market shares of the merging parties are below 50%, the market concentration index ('HHI delta') is below 150, and the company with the smallest market share is the same in the upstream and downstream markets. The Notice also grants the Commission discretion to treat certain

cases under the simplified procedure even if they do not fall under any of the default categories for such treatment. In particular, the Notice includes the following flexibility clauses: for horizontal

overlaps where the combined market shares of the merging parties are 20-25%; for vertical relationships where the individual or combined upstream and downstream market shares of the merging parties are 30-35%; for vertical relationships where the individual or combined market shares of the merging parties do not exceed 50% in one market and 10% in the other vertically related market; and for joint ventures with turnover and assets between €100 million and €150 million in the European Economic Area ('EEA'). The Notice also provides a clearer and more detailed list of circumstances in which the Commission may investigate a case that technically qualifies for simplified treatment under the normal review procedure. Streamline the review of simplified cases. The Implementing Regulation introduces a new notification form ("tick-the-box" Short Form CO) for simplified cases. This form includes primarily multiple-choice questions and tables, and streamlined questions on both the jurisdictional and substantive assessment of cases. The Notice also identifies categories of cases that can benefit from a "super-simplified" treatment, whereby parties are invited to notify directly without prior engagement with the Commission. Streamline the review of non-simplified cases. The Implementing Regulation reduces and clarifies the information requirements in the notification form for these cases (Form CO). This now includes clearer information on waiver possibilities, introduces tables for information on affected markets, and eliminates certain information requirements. Optimise the transmission of documents to the Commission with the new Communication, which introduces electronic notifications by default. All of these changes are also expected to simplify pre-notification contacts overall, further reducing the time needed for these discussions. Additional detailed information on the main changes can be found in an explanatory note that accompanies the revised rules, and in the Q&A document.

Background

The Commission has the duty to assess mergers and acquisitions involving companies with a turnover above certain thresholds (see Article 1 of the EU Merger Regulation) and to prevent concentrations that would significantly impede effective competition in the EEA or any substantial part of it. Over the years, the Commission has sought to focus its investigations on those cases likely to have a significant impact on EU businesses and citizens. In 2000, the Commission first introduced a simplified procedure for unproblematic mergers. In 2013, the Commission adopted a Simplification Package further streamlining and simplifying the merger review process for unproblematic cases. In March 2021, the Commission finalised its evaluation of procedural and jurisdictional aspects of EU merger control. The evaluation showed that while the 2013 Simplification Package had increased the application of simplified procedures to unproblematic mergers and reduced the administrative burden both for businesses and the Commission while ensuring effective enforcement, there were still cases that are typically unproblematic which were not captured by the simplified procedure. The evaluation also showed that in certain cases information requirements may still be too extensive. Finally, the evaluation revealed that the 2013 Notice on Simplified Procedure was not clear enough in identifying the special circumstances in which cases that meet the requirements for simplified treatment are nonetheless subject to normal review. On 26 March 2021, the Commission published its Inception Impact Assessment detailing the different options being considered to tackle the issues identified in the evaluation. At the same time, the Commission launched in March 2021 a first Public Consultation on the options listed in its Inception Impact Assessment. Following the assessment of the feedback received during the first Public Consultation and further internal research, the Commission reviewed the rules and submitted them to a consultation of stakeholders in May 2022. In October 2022, the Commission published a targeted consultation on certain provisions. The Impact Assessment Report, which includes more details on the consultation activities as well as the assessment of the proposed changes. For more concise information on the Impact Assessment exercise, consult the Executive Summary of the Impact Assessment Report.



For More Information

See the dedicated webpage of DG Competition, which contains the revised Implementing Regulation and Notice on Simplified Procedure as well as all stakeholder contributions submitted in the context of the evaluation and the inception impact assessment and the Impact Assessment Report.

5. Commission welcomes political agreement on the European Chips Act

The Commission welcomes the political agreement reached between the European Parliament and the EU Member States on the European Chips Act, proposed by the Commission on 8 February 2022, including on the budget.

Semiconductors are at the centre of strong geostrategic interests, and of the global technological race. For this reason, the Commission proposed the European Chips Act, which strengthens European competitiveness and resilience in this strategic sector. Chips are the essential building blocks of digital and digitised products. From smartphones and cars, through critical applications and infrastructures for healthcare, energy, defence, communications and industrial automation, chips are central to the modern digital economy. Recent shortages of semiconductors have highlighted Europe's dependency on a limited number of suppliers outside of the EU, in particular



Taiwan and South-East Asia for manufacturing of chips, and the United States for their design. To respond to critical dependencies, the European Chips Act will strengthen manufacturing activities in the Union, stimulate the European design ecosystem, and support scale-up and innovation across the whole value chain. Through the European Chips Act, the European Union aims to reach its target to double its current global market share to 20% in 2030. The first pillar of the Act - the Chips for Europe Initiative -

will reinforce Europe's technological leadership, by facilitating the transfer of knowledge from the lab to the fab, bridging the gap between research and innovation and industrial activities and by promoting the industrialisation of innovative technologies by European businesses. The Chips for Europe Initiative will combine investments from the Union, Member States and the private sector, through a strategic reorientation of the Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking (renamed 'Chips Joint Undertaking'). The Initiative will be supported by €6.2 billion of public funds, of which €3.3 billion from the EU budget agreed for the period until 2027, the end of the current multi-annual financial framework. This support will come in addition to €2.6 billion public funding already foreseen for semiconductor technologies. The €6.2 billion will support activities, such as the development of a design platform and setting up of pilot lines to accelerate innovation and production. The Initiative will also help the establishment of competence centres, located across Europe, which will provide access to technical expertise and experimentation, helping companies, SMEs in particular, to improve design capabilities and developing skills. Together with design centres of excellence, they will become poles of attraction for innovation and for new talent. Moreover, to support start-ups and SMEs, access to finance will be ensured through a Chips Fund and a dedicated semiconductor equity investment facility established under InvestEU. In addition to the Chips for Europe Initiative, the second pillar of the European Chips Act will incentivise public and private investments in manufacturing facilities for chipmakers and their suppliers. This will contribute to the overall public investments in the sector estimated at €43 billion. The second pillar of the European Chips Act will create a framework to ensure security of supply by attracting investments and enhancing production capacities in semiconductor manufacturing. To this end, it sets out a framework for Integrated Production Facilities and Open EU Foundries that are "first-of-a-kind" in the Union and contribute to the security of supply and to a resilient ecosystem in the Union interest. State aid may be granted to these first-of-a-kind facilities directly under Article 107(3)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to approval by the Commission as outlined in the Chips Act Communication. In addition, Member States should provide administrative support to these facilities, including fast tracking of administrative application procedures. In its third pillar, the European Chips Act will also establish a coordination mechanism between the Member States and the Commission for strengthening collaboration with and across Member States, monitoring the supply of semiconductors, estimating demand, anticipating shortages, and, if necessary, triggering the activation of a crisis stage. To address such situations, the European Chips Act establishes a dedicated toolbox of measures that can be undertaken. Already now, since the proposal for a European Chips Act, together with the second Important Project of Common European Interest in microelectronics currently under assessment, which involves 20 Member States and dozens of participants, investment plans towards industrial deployment have reached €90 - 100 billion. The adoption of the European Chips Act will allow a faster realisation of those projects and further progress in attracting investment to secure Europe's supply chain in semiconductor.

Next Steps

The political agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council is now subject to formal approval by the two co-legislators.

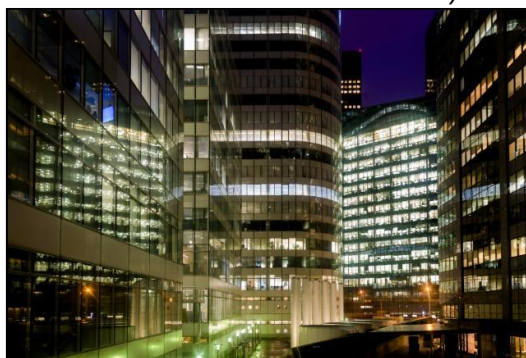
Background

A cornerstone of the modern industry system, chips are a fundamental component of the digital transition. Modern technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), connectivity (5G/6G), or edge computing will lead to a further surge in demand of semiconductors, which will increase the pressure on the supply chains. Semiconductors are also at the centre of strong geopolitical interests, conditioning countries' capacity to act (militarily, economically, and industrially). A common European strategy for the manufacturing of chips was first set by Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** in her 2021 State of the Union speech. In February 2022, together with the European Chips Act, the Commission published a targeted stakeholder survey in order to gather detailed information on chip and wafer demand, to better understand how the shortage of chips was affecting European industry. The measures adopted will help Europe to reach its 2030 Digital Decade targets, fostering a greener, more inclusive and digital Europe.

6. Commission proposes reform of bank crisis management

The European Commission has adopted a proposal to adjust and further strengthen the EU's existing bank crisis management and deposit insurance (CMDI) framework, with a focus on medium-sized and smaller banks.

The EU's banking sector, which includes a strong crisis management framework, has become much more resilient in recent years. Financial institutions in the EU are well capitalised, highly liquid and closely supervised. However, experience has shown that many failing medium-sized and smaller banks have been managed with solutions outside the resolution framework. This sometimes involved using taxpayers' money instead of the bank's required internal resources or private, industry-funded safety nets (deposit guarantee schemes and resolution funds). This proposal will enable authorities to organise the orderly market exit for a failing bank of any size and business model, with a broad range of tools. In particular, it will facilitate the use of industry-funded safety nets to shield depositors in banking crises, such as by transferring them from an ailing bank to a healthy one. Such use of safety nets must only be a complement to the banks' internal loss absorption capacity, which remains the first line of defence. Overall, this will further preserve financial stability, protect taxpayers and depositors, and support the real economy and its competitiveness.



The proposal has the following objectives: Preserving financial stability and protecting taxpayers' money: the proposal facilitates the use of deposit guarantee schemes in crisis situations to shield depositors (natural persons, businesses, public entities, etc.) from bearing losses, where this is necessary to avoid contagion to other banks and negative effects on the community and the economy. By relying on industry-funded safety nets (such as deposit guarantee schemes and resolution funds), the proposal also better protects taxpayers who do not have to step in to preserve financial stability. Deposit guarantee schemes can only be used for this purpose after banks have exhausted their internal loss absorption capacity, and only for banks that were already earmarked for resolution in the first place. Shielding the real economy from the impact of bank failure: the proposed rules will allow authorities to fully exploit the many advantages of resolution as a key component of the crisis management toolbox. In contrast with liquidation, resolution can be less disruptive for clients as they keep access to their accounts, for example by being transferred to another bank. Moreover, the bank's critical functions are preserved. This benefits the economy and society, more broadly. Better protection for depositors: the level of coverage of €100,000 per depositor and bank, as set out in the Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive, remains for all eligible EU depositors. However, this proposal harmonises further the standards of depositor protection across the EU. The new framework extends depositor protection to public entities (i.e. hospitals, schools, municipalities), as well as client money deposited in certain types of client funds (i.e. by investment companies, payment institutions, e-

money institutions). The proposal includes additional measures to harmonise the protection of temporary high balances on bank accounts in excess of €100,000 linked to specific life events (such as inheritance or insurance indemnities).

Next steps

The legislative package will now be discussed by the European Parliament and Council.

Background

In its statement of 16 June 2022, the Eurogroup noted that the Banking Union remains incomplete and agreed, as an immediate step, that the work on the Banking Union should focus on strengthening the crisis management and deposit insurance framework, with the aim of completing the legislative work during this institutional cycle. Other important projects, such as the establishment of the third and outstanding pillar of the Banking Union – European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS) – and further progress on market integration, would be re-assessed subsequently, after the CMDI reform. In its latest report on the Banking Union, the European Parliament also supported the need for a review of the crisis management and deposit insurance framework to improve its functioning and predictability to manage bank failures.

7. Accelerate the rollout of renewable energy

The Commission welcomes the provisional agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council to reinforce the EU Renewable Energy Directive.

This deal brings the EU one step closer to completing the “Fit for 55” legislation to deliver the European Green Deal and the REPowerEU objectives. The agreement raises the EU's binding renewable target for 2030 to a minimum of 42.5%, up from the current 32% target and almost doubling the existing share of renewable energy in the EU. Negotiators also agreed that the EU would aim to reach 45% of renewables by 2030. The agreement reaffirms the EU's determination to gain its energy independence through a faster deployment of home-grown renewable energy, and to meet the EU's 55% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2030. A massive scaling-up and speeding-up of renewable energy across power generation, industry, buildings and transport will reduce energy prices over time and decrease the EU's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

A larger share of renewables to achieve a decarbonised economy

Permitting procedures will be easier and faster under the new law. Renewable energy will be recognised as an overriding public interest, while preserving a high level of environmental protection. In areas with high renewables potential and low environmental risks, Member States will put in place dedicated acceleration areas for renewables, with particularly short and simple permitting processes. The provisional agreement also enhances cross-border cooperation on renewables. The agreement includes targets and measures to support the uptake of renewables across various sectors of the economy. The revised Directive strengthens annual renewables targets for the heating and cooling sector and for renewable energy used in district heating systems. It introduces a specific renewable energy benchmark of 49% for energy consumption in buildings by 2030 to complement EU buildings legislation and guide Member States' efforts. As a key energy-consuming sector, industry is included for the first time in the Renewable Energy



Directive. The agreement establishes indicative targets (1.6% of annual increase in renewable energy use) as well as a binding target to reach 42% of renewable hydrogen in total hydrogen consumption in industry by 2030. The agreement also reinforces the regulatory framework for renewable energy use in transport (14.5% greenhouse gas intensity reduction or 29% share of renewable energy in final energy consumption), including a combined sub-target of 5.5% for advanced biofuels and renewable fuels of non-biological origin, including a minimum level of 1% for renewable fuels of non-biological origin. These targets support the EU's ambitions on renewable hydrogen roll-out. The agreement also contains provisions to support energy system integration via electrification and waste heat uptake as well an enhanced system of guarantees of origin to improve consumers' information.

A more sustainable use of bioenergy in line with ambitious climate goals

The agreement strengthens the bioenergy sustainability criteria, in line with the increased climate and biodiversity ambition of the European Green Deal. In the future, these criteria will apply to smaller installations (equal or above 7.5 MW) rather than the 20 MW threshold under the current directive. The agreement includes provisions to ensure that forest biomass is not sourced from certain areas with a particular importance from a biodiversity and carbon stock perspective. In addition, the agreed rules establish that woody biomass will have to be used according to its highest economic and environmental added value (so-called cascading use). Financial support will be banned for energy produced through the use of saw logs, veneer logs, industrial grade roundwood, and stumps and roots.

Next steps

This provisional agreement now requires formal adoption by the European Parliament and the Council. Once this process is completed, the new legislation will be published in the Official Journal of the Union and enter into force.

Background

The European Green Deal is the EU's long-term growth strategy to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050. The revision of the Renewable Energy Directive is one of the 'Fit for 55' proposals presented by the Commission in July 2021 to make the EU's climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Accelerating and increasing the deployment renewables by the end of the next decade is crucial to Europe becoming the world's first climate neutral continent by 2050 and making the European Green Deal a reality. Ramping up our production and use of renewable energy is also a key pillar of the REPowerEU Plan, which is the EU's strategy to get rid of Russian fossil fuel imports as soon as possible. In May 2022, the Commission proposed as part of the REPowerEU Plan to further accelerate the rollout of renewables, including an increase of the binding Renewables Target proposed under the 'Fit for 55' package of European Green Deal legislation.

8. Right to repair: Making repair easier for consumers

The European Commission adopted a new proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods, which will result in savings for consumers and support the objectives of the European Green Deal by reducing waste, among others.

Over the last decades, replacement has often been prioritised over repair whenever products become defective and insufficient incentives have been given to consumers to repair their goods when the legal guarantee expires. The proposal will make it easier and more cost-effective for consumers to repair as opposed to replace goods. Additionally, more demand will translate into a boost to the repair sector while incentivising producers and sellers to develop more sustainable business models. This proposal will ensure that more products are repaired within the legal guarantee, and that consumers have easier and cheaper options to repair products that are technically repairable (such as vacuum cleaners, or soon, tablets and smartphones) when the legal guarantee has expired or when the good is not functional anymore as a result of wear and tear.



New measures to promote and facilitate repair and reuse

The proposal introduces a new 'right to repair' for consumers, both within and beyond the legal guarantee. Within the legal guarantee, sellers will be required to offer repair except when it is more expensive than replacement. Beyond the legal guarantee, a new set of rights and tools will be available to consumers to make 'repair' an easy and accessible option: A right for consumers to claim repair to producers, for products that are technically repairable under EU law, like a washing machine or a TV. This will ensure that consumers always have someone to turn to when they opt to repair their products, as well as encourage producers to develop more sustainable business models. A producers' obligation to inform consumers about the products that they are obliged to repair themselves. An online matchmaking repair platform to connect

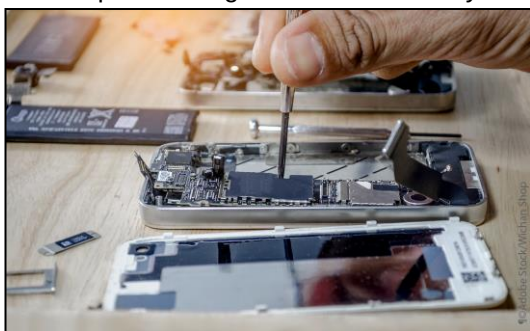
consumers with repairers and sellers of refurbished goods in their area. The platform will enable searches by location and quality standards, helping consumers find attractive offers, and boosting visibility for repairers. A European Repair Information Form which consumers will be able to request from any repairer, bringing transparency to repair conditions and price, and make it easier for consumers to compare repair offers. A European quality standard for repair services will be developed to help consumers identify repairers who commit to a higher quality. This 'easy repair' standard will be open to all repairers across the EU willing to commit to minimum quality standards, for example based on duration, or availability of products.

Next steps

The Commission's proposal has to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.

Background

A recent Eurobarometer showed that 77% of Europeans feel a personal responsibility to act to limit climate change. Discarded products are often viable goods that can be repaired but are often tossed prematurely, resulting in 35 million tons of waste, 30 million tons of resources and 261 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU every year. Furthermore, the loss for consumers of opting for replacement instead of repair is estimated at almost 12 billion per year. Additionally, the initiative is estimated to bring EUR 4.8 billion in growth and investment in the EU. However, repair is often seen as difficult by consumers. The 'right to repair' initiative complements several other proposals presented by the Commission to achieve sustainable consumption throughout the entire lifecycle of a product, setting the framework for a true 'right to repair' across the EU. This proposal is part of the European Commission's broader goal of becoming the first climate neutral continent by 2050. This can only happen if consumers and businesses are consuming and producing more sustainably. The 'right to repair' proposal was announced in the New Consumer Agenda and the Circular Economy Action Plan. It tackles obstacles that discourage consumers to repair due to inconvenience, lack of transparency or difficult access to repair services. It therefore



encourages repair as a more sustainable consumption choice, which contributes to the climate and environmental objectives under the European Green Deal. This initiative complements other instruments that pursue the European Green Deal objective of sustainable consumption by means of repair. On the supply side, the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products regulation promotes the reparability of products in the production phase. On the demand side, the proposal for a Directive on Empowering consumers for the green transition enables consumers to make informed purchasing decisions at the point of sale. This proposal strengthens the demand side by promoting repair in the after-sales phase. The three initiatives together cover the entire lifecycle of a product, complementing and reinforcing each other. Additionally, the initiative on Substantiating Green Claims, will make it easier for consumers to support the green transition through their purchasing choices and stop companies from making misleading claims about environmental merits of their products and services. This initiative also complements the Proposal 'Empowering consumers for the green transition' which sets the horizontal framework against greenwashing.

9. Enabling sustainable choices and ending greenwashing

The Commission is proposing common criteria against greenwashing and misleading environmental claims.

Under this proposal, consumers will have more clarity, stronger reassurance that when something is sold as green, it actually is green, and better quality information to choose environment-friendly products and services. Businesses will also benefit, as those that make a genuine effort to improve the environmental sustainability of their products will be more easily recognised and rewarded by consumers and able to boost their sales – rather than face unfair competition. This way, the proposal will help establish a level playing field when it comes to information about environmental performance of products. A Commission study from 2020 highlighted that 53.3% of

examined environmental claims in the EU were found to be vague, misleading or unfounded and 40% were unsubstantiated. The absence of common rules for companies making voluntary green claims leads to 'greenwashing' and creates an uneven playing field in the EU's market, to the disadvantage of genuinely sustainable companies.

Reliable, comparable and verifiable information for consumers

According to the proposal, when companies choose to make a 'green claim' about their products or services, they will have to respect minimum norms on how they substantiate these claims and how they communicate them. The proposal targets explicit claims, such as for example: 'T-shirt made of recycled plastic bottles', 'CO2 compensated delivery', 'packaging made of 30% recycled plastic' or 'ocean friendly sunscreen'. It also aims to tackle the proliferation of labels as well as new public and private environmental labels. It covers all voluntary claims about the environmental impacts, aspects or performance of a product, service or the trader itself. However, it excludes claims that are covered by existing EU rules, such as the EU Ecolabel or the organic food logo, because the current laws already ensure that these regulated claims are reliable. Claims which will be covered by upcoming EU regulatory rules, will be excluded for the same reason. Before companies communicate any of the covered types of 'green claims' to consumers, such claims will need to be independently verified and proven with scientific evidence. As part of the scientific analysis, companies will identify the environmental impacts that are actually relevant to their product, as well as identifying any possible trade-offs, to give a full and accurate picture.



Clear and harmonised rules and labels

Several rules will make sure that claims are communicated clearly. For example, claims or labels that use aggregate scoring of the product's overall environmental impact, will no longer be permitted, unless set in EU rules. If products or organisations are compared with others, such comparisons should be based on equivalent information and data. The proposal will also regulate environmental labels. There are currently at least 230 different labels and there is evidence that this leads to consumer confusion and distrust. To control the proliferation of such labels, new public labelling schemes will not be allowed, unless developed at EU level, and any new private schemes will need to show higher environmental ambition than existing ones and get a pre-approval to be allowed. There are detailed rules about environmental labels in general: they must also be reliable, transparent, independently verified, and regularly reviewed.

Next steps

Following the ordinary legislative procedure, the Green Claims Directive proposal will now be subject to the approval of the European Parliament and the Council.

Background

This proposal complements the March 2022 proposal on 'empowering consumers for the green transition' by providing more specific rules on environmental claims, in addition to a general prohibition of misleading advertising. This proposal is also presented together with a proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods, which will also contribute to sustainable



consumption and enhance the circular economy. This proposal makes good on an important Commission commitment as part of the European Green Deal. It is the third package of proposals on circular economy, together with the proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods. The first and second circular economy packages were adopted in March and November 2022. The first package included the new proposed Regulation on Ecodesign for

Sustainable Products, the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles, and the proposed Consumer law directive on empowering consumers in the green transition. The second package included the proposals for the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, the communication on biodegradable, biobased and compostable plastics and the proposed EU Certification for Carbon Removals Regulation.

10. Commission takes action to promote work-life balance in the EU

To safeguard the right to work-life balance across Member States, the European Commission decided to continue infringement procedures against Belgium, Czechia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Austria, and Slovenia by sending them a reasoned opinion for failing to notify national measures fully transposing EU rules establishing rights on work-life balance for parents and carers.

New rights for parents and carers in the EU

The Work-Life Balance Directive is a game-changer for working parents and carers. It makes it easier to balance family and career by setting minimum standards for leave entitlements like paternity, parental, and carers' leave. It also provides for the right to request flexible working arrangements for parents and carers. These new rules help people develop their careers and family life while improving their overall well-being. Its goal is to improve work-life balance for everyone and make it easier for parents and carers to manage their responsibilities. The Directive provides the following rights: paternity leave: Fathers are entitled to at least ten working days of paternity leave around the time of birth of the child. Paternity leave must be compensated at least at the level of sick pay; parental leave: Each parent is entitled to at least four months of parental leave, of which two months are paid for and are non-transferable. Parents can request to take their leave in a flexible form, either full-time, part-time, or in segments; carers' leave: All workers providing personal care or support to a relative or person living in the same household have the right to at least five working days of carers' leave per year; flexible Working Arrangements: All working parents with children of up to eight years old and all carers have the right to request reduced working hours, flexible working hours, and flexibility in the place of work.



Commission calls on Member States to comply with these rules

After the Directive was adopted in 2019, Member States had until 2 August 2022 to implement it into their national laws. On 21 September 2022, the Commission sent a letter of formal notice to 19 Member States for failing to communicate measures to transpose this Directive into their national law. After having analysed their replies, the Commission found that the Directive was still not fully transposed in 11 Member States, and therefore decided to take a further step in the infringement procedure by sending a reasoned opinion to Belgium, Czechia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Austria and Slovenia. These Member States now have two months to take the necessary measures to comply with the reasoned opinion. Otherwise, the Commission may decide to refer them to the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Background

The EU has provided a series of legislative acts creating minimum EU rights for citizens to combine work with family responsibilities. The Work-Life Balance Directive is one of the actions of



the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan to further implement the principles set out therein. The proposal was adopted on 13 June 2019 and Member States had three years until 2 August 2022 to implement it in national law. The new rules are in addition to the rights under Directive 92/85 on pregnant workers, according to which women have the right to a minimum of 14 weeks of maternity leave with at least two being compulsory. Maternity leave is compensated at least at the national sick pay level. The Directive goes hand in hand with the European Care Strategy which aims

to ensure quality, affordable and accessible care services across the European Union and improve the situation for both care receivers and the people caring for them, professionally or informally.

11. Youth4Regions – the programme for aspiring journalists

Applications opened on 10 April for Youth4regions 2023, the European Commission's programme that helps journalism students and young journalists find out what the EU is doing in their region. The programme offers the chance to receive training on EU journalism and regional policy, be mentored by established journalists from their own country and work side by side with renowned journalists during the EU Regions Week. There are three categories in which to apply: general, photojournalism and video journalism. All 37 selected candidates will be invited to Brussels to participate in the Youth4Regions programme during the EU Regions Week, from 7 to 13 October 2023, for which the European Commission will cover travel and accommodation. At the end of the programme participants become part of the Youth4Regions Alumni network. The application form and conditions of participation are available on the programme webpage. **Deadline: 10 July 2023.** For more information please visit the following [link](#).



12. #BeActive Awards 2023 now open for submission



The #BeActive Awards were created as a central part of the annual European Week of Sport. They aim to support projects and individuals that have successfully promoted sport and physical activity across Europe. The competition contributes to the promotion of the European Week of Sport, while showcasing best-practice projects, and spotlighting inspiring individuals for a pan-European audience. Since 2015 the #BeActive Awards have recognised and celebrated outstanding initiatives at all levels - especially at local level - to promote sport and physical activity and encourage

people to be active. The 2023 #BeActive Awards will feature the following four categories:

- **#BeActive Education Award.** This award shows how education can encourage children to be active outside the typical school-time sport/physical activities. This may include additional activities, sport days outside of class, after-school activities and other creative solutions that build an active educational environment.
- **#BeActive Workplace Award.** This award celebrates exemplary activities in the workplace that encourage employees to be more active. This may include all sorts of initiatives that take place during work time, at lunchtime or before/after work, and which promote an active working environment.
- **#BeActive Local Hero Award.** This award celebrates individual achievements in motivating others to be active. The award recognises individuals who have worked consistently to promote sport and/or physical activity in their local community or environment.
- **#BeActive Across Generations Award.** This award rewards projects that promote inter-generational sport, and underlines that everyone can benefit from activities that improve health and well-being. This may include the promotion of activities adapted to all generations, the promotion of healthy lifestyles across all generations, as well as easier access to sport and physical activities for all generations.

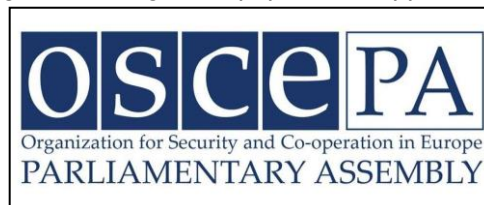
The winner and the finalists (ranked 2nd and 3rd) in each category will receive awards to inspire other organisations and individuals around Europe. They will all be announced and showcased at the award ceremony where they receive their prizes. The call for proposals has been published on the European Commission's [Funding & Tenders \(europa.eu\)](#) portal and you can **submit your entry by 25 May 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time**. For more information consult the following [link](#).

13. OSCE 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 1,000 euros per month plus free housing. For Assistants in Vienna, the Assembly provides an allowance of 1,200 euros per month to cover for basic expenses and accommodation.



Qualifications

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.

Application procedure

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](#).

14. Traineeships at EUSPA

EUSPA - European Union Agency for Space Programme offers university students and graduates a unique, first-hand experience of the work of the Agency and the EU institutions. There are currently two types of traineeships: Unpaid short-term internships for the completion and validation of mandatory academic requirements (maximum duration three months): to apply, spontaneously and at any time of the year, send the required documents in English to jobs@euspa.europa.eu. Regularly paid traineeships (maximum duration one year): in this case, the agency publishes the traineeship notices for the various departments (and the application is made directly in the online form dedicated to each position). Trainees receive a monthly grant, the amount of which is decided on an annual basis (in 2022/23 it was set at EUR 1,400). They are also entitled to reimbursement of actual travel expenses to and from their assigned location up to a maximum of EUR 1,200. Trainees are selected from among nationals of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland and Norway who meet the following requirements: a recognised higher education qualification (university degree or equivalent), demonstrating completion of a full cycle of studies, or in the case of candidates who are at the end of their studies, an official certificate from their university or school showing the marks obtained; interest in or knowledge of one or more of the Agency's areas of work obtained during studies/research projects/traineeships or through previous professional experience; have a thorough knowledge of one official language of the European Union and a satisfactory knowledge of another language of the European Union (one of which must be the working language of the Agency - English). More details on the open positions and the characteristics of the traineeships can be found at [Euspa.europa.eu](https://euspa.europa.eu).



15. Multiplier events of the “TELEGROW” project

Mid-February Euro-net has organized 2 multiplier events to promote the results of the project



“Telegrow: Enhancing the Teleworking Digital Skills for the Middle aged employees”, which was approved as action number 2020-1-ES01-KA226-VET-096306 by the National Agency in Spain within the Erasmus Plus program within the special call of October 2020 for projects KA226 VET in the field of creativity and innovation. Both events have been attended and appreciated by the many participants who have also evaluated the effectiveness of the entire European activity by expressing positive appreciation comments on the work of the European partnership composed by: Florida Centre De Formació, Coop. V (Spain),

Euro-Net (Italy), Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wspierania Edukacji I Przedsiębiorczości (Poland), Kainotomia & Sia Ee (Greece), E-Seniors: Initiation Des Seniors Aux Ntic Association (France)

and Markeut Skills Sociedad Limitada (Spain). The project, which ended in February, can count on a positive evaluation by the Spanish National Agency, which, after the presentation of the final report on April 30th, will express its evaluation and judgement on the results achieved and the quality of the products developed on teleworking (a framework on the use of teleworking in the partner countries, a guide on digital skills, a series of training modules for adults over 50 and a e-learning online platform for trainers and learners). More information on the project are available on the official website <https://telegrow.erasmus.site/> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TeleGrow-Enhancing-Teleworking-Skills-for-the-Middle-aged-employees-106389581610827>.



16. First meeting in Berlin for the project “Food For Change”

On February 13th and 14th took place in Berlin, in Germany, the first transnational meeting within the project “Food For Change” (acronym “FFC”). The initiative has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Denmark within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-YOU – Cooperation partnerships in youth, as action number 2022-1-DK01-KA220-YOU-000089325. During the meeting, which was attended by the association EURO-NET by 2 delegates, the partners - Crossing Borders (Denmark), Kainotomia & Sia Ee (Greece), Euro-Net (Italy), Associação Novo Mundo Azul (Portugal), Asociaciija "Aktyvus Jaunimas"(Lithuania) and Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany) – have discussed the various steps of the projects



and planned the actions to complete in the short term. The project aims at involving, connecting and empowering young people in order to reconstruct a sense of community and civic engagement in the field of education, training and youth work after the pandemic. By using food as a mean of discussion, the project aims at creating an intercultural dialogue with young people of different backgrounds in terms of race, gender and social-economic class on topics that go further national boundaries. By doing so, the partners have the objective of helping

young people step outside the comfort zone by bringing them together to confront themselves and share their experiences, stories and perspectives. Through the organization of training and dialogue meals, the project aims at promoting tolerance, inclusion and respect for gender diversity in order to prevent radicalization, racism and discrimination among young people.

17. “ARES”: acquiring competences through podcasting

How much teaching should be innovated, bringing in different methodologies from the classic cross-curricular lessons in the direction of younger people? This has been the basic question of the partners of the project “ARES – A Radio for Employability Skills”, initiative approved within the Erasmus + Program KA210-ADU – Small Scale Partnerships in Adult Education, as action number 2022-1-IT02-KA210-ADU-000081472. The answer to that question came from a non-formal activity such as podcasting, which is the technology that allows to create, download and archive selected radio transmissions on the Internet as a MP3 file to be listened via smartphone or computer. This is a phenomenon that partly takes up the principles of the old radio but it evolves them into a contemporary form by adapting them to new forms of content enjoyment but without making them invasive. For some experts, the podcast is our “25th daily hour” as the only mean that allows us to learn new content while carrying out other activities, such as running in the park, traveling and more. It is no coincidence that in recent years platform to download audio content have literally had a boom. The ARES partners have focused



on production, starting from the communication agency Basilicata Press which has conceived the idea of writing the project, which was then approved by the INDIRE National Agency. As with the old radios, the ideation and production of content allows the acquisition and training of a series of skills, the also called competences, either technical, personal and soft, which are extremely useful to increase the employability: critical thinking, source research, collaboration, creativity, problem solving, proactivity, organization of information, content structuring, intelligent use of technologies and software, voice use, public speaking, editing. All these competences can be acquired through a serious game such as podcasting, which attracts the interest of many young people and also trainers who are still very fond of the memory of the old radios, which were a synonym of “freedom”. The project, in addition to the partners based in Basilicata (Italy), also involves a German association (Erasmus ME Academy of Bonn) and a Spanish association (Asociació educativa i cultural Blue Beehive of Ibi, in the Alicante province), with the aim of laying

the foundations for the establishment of an international radio station run exclusively by young people. Shortly, a video guide for trainers interested in acquiring and exporting this non formal learning methodology in their organizations (schools, youth centers, etc.) will be published and then also an online course for young adults will be published in order to help them get and share the idea of the project and to start engaging in the ideation and production of podcasts. The ARES platform, before October, will host 300 podcasts, of which 150 in English, 50 in Italian, 50 in German and 50 in Spanish, and it will also help young people to improve their linguistic skills. The partners are developing the website (www.aresproject.eu) and have also created a Facebook page for the project <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087562917983>.

18. “GREEN ROUTES”: new meeting in Volos, in Greece

On February 16th and 17th a new transnational meeting for the project “Green Routes - Learning about sustainable trends in European cities” took place in Volos, in Greece. The initiative has



been approved in Germany as action number 2020-1-DE02-KA204-007652 within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Program of Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The meeting, which was held in presence, was focused on facing some problems related to the transport strikes in Germany which have prevented the German coordinator to attend the meeting in presence and have forced the meeting to be held also online. The partners have successfully faced the situation and have been able to find a solution in order to have a productive meeting in terms of results. During the meeting, the partners have defined all the following steps within the initiative and have also established the next deadlines to complete the work. The meeting has also been the occasion for some moments of conviviality among the partners. The project “Green Routes” aims at creating a toolkit to promote sustainable solutions in the urban

areas through the creation of three intellectual products and the establishment of a methodology for the development of green scenarios related to sustainability in education through the augmented reality both live that virtual. The scenarios could be used by trainers to live green tours and will also be included in a paper guide, whereas the virtual tours will be experienced through an augmented reality app which will interact with the guide. More information of the project are available on the website of the European initiative <http://greenroutes.eu/> and on the official Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GreenRoutes-108204151034392>.

19. “Jovenes con Voz”: meeting to define the actions to be carried out

On February 17th all the partners of the project “Jóvenes con Voz: Participación Juvenil, Comunidades, Ciudadanía activa” have met online to define the actions to be carried out within the project and to clarify some important administrative and management issues. The project has been approved as action number 2022-1-ES02-KA220-YOU-000089857 by the Spanish National Agency within the Erasmus+ Program KA220-YOU – Cooperation partnerships in youth. The partnership, composed by Asociación Cultural Adhara (Spain – project coordinator), Tradicionales Kulturas Iniciativu Centrs “KasTe” (Latvia), Ayuntamiento de Numancia de la Sagra (Spain), Asociación “Réseau Professionnel de la Jeunesse en Auvergne Rhone Alpes” (France) and EURO-NET (Italy), has cleared up all the doubts related to the project management thanks to the experience of the Italian partner which has actively taken part in the development of more than 500 European projects and has laid the foundation for the development of the activities to be carried out, which have already started during the first meeting in Spain in December 2022. “Jovenes con Voz” is based on the idea that it exists a direct connection between youth participation, hence the opening of a social, political and cultural space where young people can make their voices being heard and take a leading role, and the quality of life of younger generations. This relationship has



obvious social implications that affect not only young people but also, directly or indirectly, the entire civil society, which can then succeed in better including younger generations when it manages to promote accompanying processes aimed at strengthening the participation in local contexts. For this reason, the project has become an articulated pathway including many different initiatives with varying development times (some initiatives are specific and some others are long term). Nevertheless, all the initiatives are framed within a coherent pedagogical framework with clear objectives and are all aimed at providing space for young people so that they can take a leading role, involving them in local activities that enable them to act as active citizens of their communities and the EU. Young people will also be involved in multiplier events (diffusion, follow up, peer education) in their territories and in Europe, through a process of mutual learning by seeking to highlight the work carried out by each partner in its own context through an immersion in the local dimensions and by giving meaning to the work carried out in terms of participation and inclusion of younger generations in civil society. Regarding the expected outcomes of the project, all the products to be developed will be technological: in particular, the project envisages the creation of a web platform where it will be possible to share different experiences of youth participation. Young people will be involved in the design, the development and also the content creation of the web platform. This “online showcase” will also include other outcomes, such as the MOOC on participation in active citizenship, the handbook on youth participation in the EU based on interactive learning, and videos on key aspects of participation.

20. Online meeting for the “CECIL” project

On February 17th was held online a short meeting for the project “Circular economy education for social inclusion of Women” (acronym “CECIL”). The initiative has been approved by the National Agency in Portugal within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-ADU as action number 2021-1-PT01-KA220-ADU-000026125. The two-year project is aimed at promoting circular economy and sustainability among women at risk of exclusion and at fostering greater interaction with the European Green Deal and the EU Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025. During the online meeting, the partners have discussed about the state of the first outcome (the CECIL Guide) and



of the second outcome (the CECIL Interactive ToolKit), and have also defined the next steps to complete the second outcome, whose work is coordinated by the Potenza-based association Youth Europe Service. The partners, Domínio Vivo -Formação E Consultoria, Lda (Portugal – project coordinator), Mine Vaganti NGO (Italy), Center For Education And Innovation (Greece), Youth Europe Service (Italy), Mobilizing Expertise Ab (Sweden) and Aidlearn Consultoria Em Recursos Humanos Lda (Portugal), have

agreed to complete the research by the end of February in order to then focus on the following training and technical steps by April 2023 (some organizations are already working on these). The project is aimed at providing adult educators and trainers with abilities, skills and tools to engage women, especially aged between 35 and 45, who are at risk of exclusion and/or who have not completed their studies, and also to create paths for this target group in order to provide new educational opportunities in the field of circular economy and sustainability. More information on the project can be found on the official Facebook page of the initiative <https://www.facebook.com/cecilproject.eu> or on the website <https://cecilproject.eu/>.

21. “IntCult AE”: meeting and training in Bonn

On February 20th took place in Bonn, in Germany, the first transnational meeting of the European project “Intercultural Competence Development for Adult Education” (acronym “IntCult AE”). The initiative has been approved by the Polish National Agency within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-ADU – Cooperation partnerships in adult education, as action number 2022-1-PL01-KA220-ADU-000087417. The “IntCult AE” project is aimed at improving educators and adults’ intercultural competences through an innovative online course, a multimedia catalogue and guides for workshop addressed to all those who intend developing their courses. The project aims

at developing educators and adults' intercultural competences by improving the ability to move across complex environments and by enabling them to learn more effectively and by strengthening the role that adult educators have in inspiring, training and advising students. The partners of the project are: Uniwersytet Lodzki (Poland– project coordinator), Ekpaideftiria Kaloskami S.A. (Greece), Aidlearn, Consultoria em Recursos Humanos Lda (Portugal), Erasmus ME Academy gGmbH (Germany) and EURO-NET (Italy). During the meeting, the partners have discussed the actions to develop within the project and defined the steps for the first activities to realize. The meeting has been then followed by a three-days training course (from February 21st to 23rd), which was held in Bonn, during which partners have learned about cinema, which is a key element in developing the acculturation stories to be implemented to engage the target groups. The representatives of each organization have acquired skills on different aspects related to cinema, its pedagogical application, how to correctly conduct and register interviews, and how to work on the development of the Guide to interviews and workshops on intercultural competences and data collection, including the subtitles in all the languages of the partnership.



22. Training in Arad for the project “EXPLORE EUROPE”

From February 20th to the 25th (including travel days) took place in presence in Arad, in Romania, the training course of the project “Explore Europe”. The initiative has been approved by the association Youth Europe Service of Potenza, as action number 2020-2-IT03-KA205-018664 by the National Agency for Youth within the Erasmus Plus Program KA205 Strategic Partnerships for Youth. The training, which was attended by delegations of 4 people for each partner organization (youth workers or youth trainers), has been focused on many topics related to the project, such as storytelling techniques, body language, non-verbal communication, methodologies to involve students, effective management, field trials among participants. The training activities have been helpful to show how to manage young people during activities, how to get young people to compete fairly and pro-actively during playful and training lessons, how to allow young people to be fully involved in activities, and how to use body language and nonverbal communication during activities. Furthermore, the training has allowed to demonstrate through practical examples and best practices how to manage all the intellectual products which have been developed within the project and has also enabled participants to confront themselves on ideas and opinions. For this reason, the activities have been extremely helpful and preparatory to the training of those facilitators who will lead the organization of multiplier events in each partner country by May. More information of the project are available on the Facebook page of www.facebook.com/Explore-Europe-104476754982850/ and website www.exploreeurope.eu.



23. Training in Turkey for the “MATTERS” project

From March 5th to March 11st, including travel days, the first training within the project “The Education of Human Rights and Democracy MATTERS” (acronyms “MATTERS”) took place in Turkey, in Rize and Ardesen. The initiative has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Portugal as action number 2021-2-PT01-KA210-SCH-000048689 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA210-SCH – Small scale partnerships in school education. During the first LTTA of the project, which was attended for the Italian partner Euro-Net by the students of the High School of Arts of Potenza, the young participants of the partner countries



(Italy, Turkey and Portugal) have presented the works developed on the importance of respecting democracy values and have worked side by side on various activities, including the development of a newsletter about the project. Furthermore, there were also moments of visiting and leisure, for example at the Castle of Zil or at two historical mosques in Siyad and Seslikaya. During the training, the groups of the partner organizations - Agrupamento de Escolas do Forte da Casa (Portugal), Ardesen Sehit Omer Halisdemir Fen Lisesi (Turkey) and EURO-NET (Italy) - have had the opportunity to get to know each other and become friends, and they have agreed to meet in a couple of months in Potenza for the next project meeting to promote human rights and democratic principles in schools and society.

24. Meeting in Bologna for the “Conscious Consumption” project

On March 13rd to March 14th took place in Bologna the third meeting of the project “Conscious Consumption” (acronym “CoCo”). The initiative has been approved in Germany by the Erasmus Plus National Agency within the KA220-ADU Cooperation partnerships in adult education



Program, as action number 2021-1-DE02-KA220-ADU-000033718. The meeting has been attended for EURO-NET by 3 staff members – Andrea D’Andrea, Mariangela Tolve and Giulia Maria Provenzale – and has been aimed at assessing the work done so far and at planning the following steps. In particular, EURO-NET’s staff has presented the game project that wants to develop (a serious game to develop both online and as a board game and

aimed at improving the green awareness of young consumers) and has thus received great consensus and approval from the entire partnership. In addition to that, partners have also discussed the “Safe of Knowledge” and the Facilitator Guide, which are two other products to be developed in the short term. The project is aimed at creating a behavioral shift in European citizens in order to push them toward more aware and environmentally friendly consumption patterns, and is also intended to ensure reliable product information and strengthen consumers’ protection against business practices such as greenwashing and obsolescence. The partnership working on this project consists of Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany – project coordinator), Euro-Net (Italy), Dr. Ludwig Intelligent Projects GmbH (Germany), Kaakkois-Suomen Ammattikorkeakoulu Oy (Finland), Blue Room Innovation SL (Spain), Erasmus Learning Academy (Italy) and Fundacja Otwarty Plan (Poland).

25. Europe Direct meeting at the “Europe Experience - David Sassoli”

From March 23th to March 25th took place in Rome a new meeting of the Europe Direct Italian network, to which the Europe Direct Basilicata Center could not attend to present its Europe Experience for the first time in twenty years. *“Unfortunately, – explained Antonino Imbesi, director of the center based in Basilicata – at the moment, after having undergone surgery last December to reconstruct a ligament in my left arm, I am strictly forbidden to travel, and, therefore, I could not participate to the Europe Direct Network work event in presence for the first time since 2004. Nevertheless, the Italian Representation of the European Commission has activated, as requested, an online connection to attend at least some of the working sessions which have focused on European issues and their implications on the daily work of the European information networks”.* The meeting in Rome has included an agenda full with meetings, gatherings and guided tours at the “Europe Experience – David Sassoli”, which has recently opened in Roma in Venezia Square 11, in addition to insights on the activities being developed in this new center. “Europe Experience”



allows people to discover Europe and the European Parliament in an innovative dynamic multimedia center in the heart of Rome; helps people understand how the EU affects citizens' daily lives through a multimedia tour, immersive installations and an interactive role-playing game; offers the opportunity to discover how EU institutions work; gives people the chance to learn about the European aid and grants available to shape their future; offers content in the 24 official languages of the European Union. The multimedia space makes available to visitors conference room to encourage meetings between citizens, stakeholders and European parliamentarians. The interactive center in Rome is part of a project promoted by the Parliament and the European Commission which aims at bringing Europe closer to citizens and envisages the opening of Europe Experience multimedia centers in the capitals of the 27 member states. The Europe Experience – David Sassoli of Rome is dedicated to the former President of the European Parliament David Sassoli, who specifically cared about the involvement and the dialogue with all citizens, in particular with young people.

26. Last meeting for “MOOC4ALL” in Bulgaria

From March 28th to March 30th (excluding travel days) took place in Sofia, in Bulgaria, the last transnational meeting within the European project “MOOC4ALL - Innovative Model for Facilitating On-line Learning Success” (acronym “MOOC4ALL”). The initiative has been approved as action number 2021-1-BG01-KA220-VET-000029853 by the National Agency in Bulgaria within the



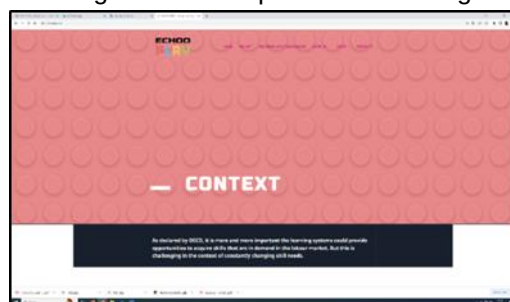
Erasmus Plus Program KA220-VET Partnership Cooperative in vocational training. The meeting (attended for the association EURO-NET by Dr. Luigi Vitelli, who has worked as a specialized technician for the project) was aimed at assessing the work completed and the results achieved by the partnership throughout the 17 months of international partnership, during which they have developed and tested latest generations e-learning products (first of

all, an online platform and an app for mobile phones and tablets) intended for the training sector and VET operators in all the partner countries. On the last day of the international meeting in Sofia (March 30th) was held a conference to present the outputs to the public. On the MOOC4ALL projects have worked the following organizations: Narodno Chitalishte Badeshte Sega 2006 (Bulgaria – project coordinator), University of Turku (Finland), Stando Ltd (Cyprus), Kainotomia (Greece), EURO-NET (Italy) and Krase Research and User Experience (The Netherlands). More information on the project, its activities and the products implemented by the partnership are available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Innovative-Model-for-Facilitating-Online-Learning-Success-110541508153755> or on the website <https://mooc4all.site/>.

27. Last meeting in Finland for the “ECHOO PLAY” project and game ready

From March 26th to March 29th (including travel days) took place in Turku, in Finland, the last meeting of the project “European Career Help and Occupational Orientation Play” (acronym “ECHOO PLAY”). The initiative has been approved in Iceland as action number 2020-1-IS01-KA202-065802 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA2 Strategic Partnerships in VET. During the

meeting the partners - Midstod Simenntunar A Sudurnesjum (Iceland - project coordinator; EURO-NET and Studiodomino SRL (Italy); Turun Yliopisto (Finland) and Kelje Production (France) – have talked about the game on employability which has recently been completed and which will have to be promoted within multiplier events to hold in each partner country. The final version of the first board game on employability has been completed in mid-March and will be soon available and distributed in the project's partner countries. The board game has been assembled in Potenza in the Punto



Service's print shop, it is available in five different languages (English, Italian, French, Finnish and Icelandic), and it has been conceived to develop, test, adapt and implement a new methodology which could support educators in guiding people towards employment and careers, giving them greater awareness when it comes to taking choices. Through the board game, players will find themselves in various environments where they will be able to focus on their skills in terms of knowledge of their selves and of the job market and they will also be able to participate in team building activities. This output (addressed to teachers, counselors, trainers, educators, and staff) is suitable for all the first-time job seekers, for those in a transition period, and also for special



categories such as students, migrants, long-term unemployed and people aged over 50. By the end of April, all project's partners will hold and organize multiplier events to promote to the audience the project and the board game developed. The EURO-NET association (Europe Direct Basilicata Center) will play an essential role in the last phase of the project development (the project will be over on April 29th, 2023) since it will organize a dissemination event with at least 70 participants in order to present the game all the activities and products developed by the ECHOO PLAY partnership throughout the 28 months of joint

activity at the European level. Furthermore, this occasion will help the participants (teachers, counselors, trainers, educators, staff, students, public) to understand the training dynamics behind the gamification methodology (by using LEGO® bricks) in order to improve the approach to work. The dissemination events will also be aimed at finding stakeholders interested in adopting this new innovative and engaging educational game within their organizations, in order to use it in the vocational education system as a tool for a creative approach to enter the labor market and for stimulating people who seek to define their future and are still confused about a globalized job market which constantly changes too quickly and disruptively. More information on the project are available on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Echoo-Play-project-102639605153401> and on the website <https://www.echooplay.eu/>.

28. BEST PRACTICE Award from Indire to the “Europe City Teller” project

The President of the Association EURO-NET, Europe Direct Basilicata Center, Dr. Anna Lagrotta, has announced that the KA2 project “Europe City Teller - cultural mediation and storytelling for tourism, between theater, multimedia and storytelling” (acronym “EU-ACT”) has received the Best Practice Award of the Erasmus Program from the INDIRE, the Erasmus Plus National Agency for Adult Education. *The “Europe City Teller” project, conceived to give value to the European Year of Cultural Heritage and to Matera as the European Capital of Culture 2019 – has stated the*



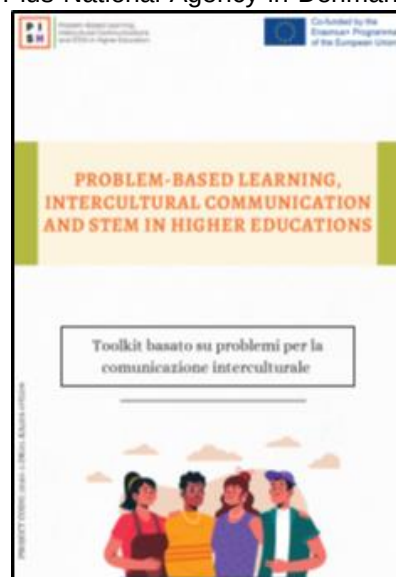
President Anna Lagrotta – has received the most coveted award of the Erasmus Plus Program, namely the European best practice. This is an achievement that makes us really proud, fills us with joy, and encourages us to do better and better. EURO-NET, over the past years, has won more than 20 awards for its projects and high quality and innovative products, including e-learning platforms, apps, cartoons, videos, movies, and 2D and 3D electronic games. *Within*

the Europe City Teller project - declared Anna Lagrotta – we have developed various tourist routes in cultural and natural heritages and focused on the legends of the territories involved: the results we have achieved in terms of participation and interest from citizens and medias have been enormous, exciting, and these have far exceeded all our project expectations. The results are clearly one of the reasons why we have received such award from the National Agency, on behalf on the European Commission. This European initiative, coordinated by the Association EURO-NET, has worked for 32 months thanks to a partnership consisting of IKTE (Hungary), Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany), Euro-Idea (Poland) and Interacting UK (UK). The initiative has definitely been an extraordinary success, despite the difficult time Europe and the

whole world had to face due to the pandemic, and it managed to enhance the cultural touristic potential of the partner cities and to emphasize the legends of the territories involved thanks to a storyteller dressed in historical clothing from the period of each legend who combined the local history and traditions with the future thanks to the virtual reality and 2D animations and told stories about the cities (Matera, Berlin, Krakow, Budapest and Billingham/Stockton-on-Tees). More information on this initiative can be found on the official website www.europecitytellers.eu (available in all languages of the partnership).

29. PISH project toolkit completed

The toolkit for the project "Problem-Based Learning, Intercultural Communications and STEM in Higher Education" (acronym "PISH") is finally ready and available in the languages of the partnership. The initiative has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Denmark as action number 2020-1-DK01-KA203-075109, and is aimed at meeting the multicultural peer-to-peer communication needs of science students in Higher Education Institutes. The objective of this toolkit is to present and make available a list of selected and tested tools that support cross-cultural dialogue and communication in STEM environments. The kit has been mainly conceived for teachers and represents a guide to facilitate cross-cultural school integration thanks to the PBL methodology (Problem Based-Learning, which is the learning based on problem solving) and demonstrates how dialogue and communication facilitate the inclusion of foreign students or students of other cultures. It has been proved that the PBL methodology within the PISH project is a very useful pedagogical teaching method since it employs complex world problems as a means of promoting concepts or principles: it is a form of collaborative peer learning that promotes interactivity since students exchange knowledge and ideas while learning to solve complex world problems. Teacher will be able to use this tool free of charge to avoid situations of exclusion and solve cross-cultural conflicts. The European partnership that has developed this toolkit is composed by Aalborg University (Denmark), EURO-NET (Italy), University of Thessaly (Greece), Crossing Borders (Denmark), Comparative Research Network (Germany), Center for Education and Innovation (Greece) and ITA Suomen Ylipisto (Finland). More information on the PISH project are available on the website <https://www.pishproject.eu/> and on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PISHproject/>.



30. Almost ready the platform of the "STARTKNOW" project



The partners of the project "Boosting the employability of Europeans young through the STARTKNOW Platform" (acronyms "STARTKNOW"), which is an initiative funded in Spain within the Erasmus Plus Program KA210-ADU as action number 2021-1-ES01-KA210-ADU-000033998 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Spain, are working on the development of the innovative e-Learning platform as envisaged by the project's activities. At the moment, the work is focusing on the implementation and completion of the Training Modules 1 and 2 of the courses of the project, which are "Technological and Self-Management Tools" and "Developing Agile and Effective Collaborative Solutions" and focus on improving the impersonal skills of young people. The "Small-scale partnerships in adult education" project has already developed in English and in all the other languages of the partnership (Spanish, Italian and Polish) six training units for the Module 1 and four out of six units for the

Module 2. The work on the Module 2 is expected to be concluded by April in order to complete the development of the Module 3 (focusing on social changes). The partners - Associació Educativa i Cultural Blue Beehive (Spain – project coordinator), EURO-NET (Italy) and Centrum Edukacyjne EST (Poland) – have uploaded the modules and the learning units on the online platform (<https://elearning.startknow.eu/courses/>) and have also assessed its functioning, so that upon completion of the third and finale Module the target group (young adults aged between 18 and 35, unemployed, young graduates, NEETs, and workers who fear that their job will be replaced by a machine) will be allowed to access the platform. The partners will tutor groups of 6 young people from each country and support them in learning the modules (each one lasting around 30 hours) in order to improve their skills, in particular their technical and professional skills, to facilitate their access to jobs and find an employment or become entrepreneurs.

31. The ANGINRadio-SUD experience continues

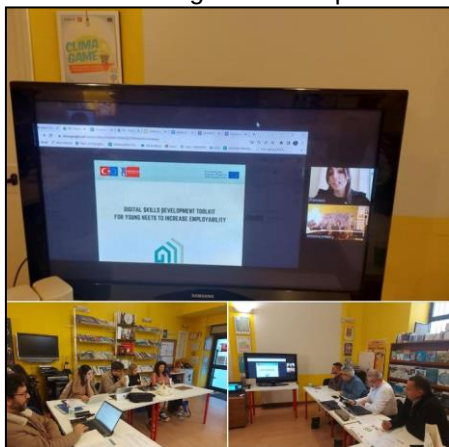
The ANGINRadio-Sud project continues its activities of dissemination of information through radio broadcasts, and is achieving brilliant results in terms of appreciation and following. The young people from Basilicata working as volunteers in the editorial activities are doing an amazing job and this demonstrates young generations' desire to do something concretely and engage in something new, especially in the case of engaging opportunities based on a bottom-up or a peer-to-peer approach. Under the coordination of Vito Verrastro and Antonino Imbesi, the online radio developed by EURO-NET involves a partnership made of 9 other organizations based in the South of Italy and in the islands (Associazione Studentesca Universitaria ETS, ACLI Giovani Napoli, Associazione NWM Network, Innovazioni Sociali ODV, People Help The People APS, Associazione Culturale Cilento Film Music Festival, Torre dei Giovani, Associazione Valentia APS e Associazione I Ragazzi di San Rocco). The project is achieving all the established goals: the young volunteers of the Europe Direct Basilicata Center have developed and promoted many interesting services, interviews and thematic discussions via web-radio, as highly requested by the National Agency for Youth. The project expects to involve about 60.000 young people across Italy through the presence of several stations in cities, at universities, associations, youth organizations, paying attention to the hinterlands and to isolated territories. The ANGINRadio-Sud project is one of the three projects funded in Italy by the National Agency for Youth, which after the positive experience of the first ANGINRadio project has signed in 2022 an agreement in order to strengthen the radio network, to ask existing stations to network with others and to create focal points throughout the country (which can become places to confront and discuss youth policies). Thus the "ANGINRadio Networking" program has been constituted by three groupings of radio stations who have become a place to listen young people and publicize the National Agency's initiatives, and have been charged with the task of fostering the dialogue of young people and promoting opportunities related to European programs, through the telling of projects carried out by youth organizations under the Erasmus+ or the European Solidarity Corps programs. The new ANGINRadio has also the goal of becoming a space for young people, in order to tell positive stories and models, to promote youth participation, to foster growth and sharing, to encourage young people to network, to help make a good use of social platforms such as Spotify, Google podcasts, YouTube, and to ensure a positive multiplier effect.



32. Second meeting in Potenza of the “Digi4You” project

On April 13th took place in Potenza, in Italy, at the Europe Direct Basilicata Center the second in presence meeting within the project “Digital skills development toolkit for young NEETS to increase employability” (acronym “digi4you”). The initiative has been approved as action number 2021-2-TR01-KA220-YOU-000047996 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Turkey, within

the KA220 Program - Cooperative Partnership for Youth. During the meeting, hosted by the association EURO-NET, the partners have presented the progress related to the Outcome 2, which has already been completed and it concerns a training toolkit for the implementation of a training course on digital skills (planned duration of at least 36 hours) based on the results of research and on the comparative analysis of the needs carried out in each country of the partnership. The presentation of the “Digital Skills training toolkit” has been extremely appreciated by all partners attending the meeting, who have also been able to assess its effectiveness thanks to assessment meetings with some experts of the sector. During the meeting, the partners have also presented the Outcome 3, namely the first chapters of the “Guidebook for youth trainers to improve soft skills of youth”, which aims at improving the work and digital skills of young people with the objective of increasing cognitive skills and teaching soft skills through the use of ICT tools. EURO-NET's experts have then presented the plan and the established work methodology to develop the Outcome 4,

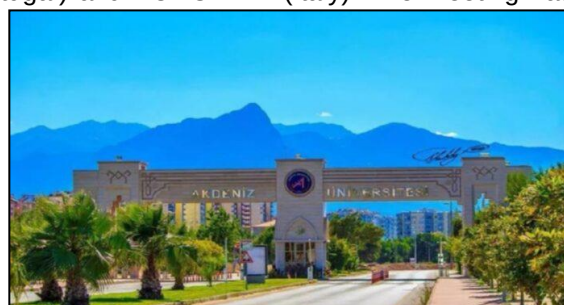


namely the “Digital skills online application”, which is a free app for mobile phones (both Android and IOS) which will include videos, a guide, digital tips, exercises, tools, tips to improve digital skills. During the meeting, dissemination activities have been discussed, as well as the update of the website (managed by EURO-NET) and the interim report to be soon completed by the partnership. The partnership is composed by Bilim ve İnsan Vakfı (Turkey – project coordinator), EURO-NET (Italy), INDEPCIE SCA (Spain) and ESICA (Austria). More information on this European initiative can be found on the website <https://www.digi4you.eu/> or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/digi4youproject>.



33. TPM in Antalya for the “CURIKIDS” project

On April 13rd and April 14th took place in Antalya, in Turkey, the first in presence meeting of the project “Integrated STEM Education with an Interactive Digital Library for Curious Kids” (acronym “CURIKIDS”). The initiative has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Turkey as action number 2022-1-TR01-KA220-SCH-000086836 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-SCH - Cooperation partnerships in school education. The meeting was held at the Faculty of Humanities of the Akdeniz University, which is the project coordinator. During the meeting, there have been partners’ presentations and detailed explanations on project’s activities. The partnership working on this project is composed by the following organizations: Akdeniz University (Turkey), UNIBA – University of Bari “Aldo Moro” (Italy), Antalya IL Milli Egitim Mudurlugu (Turkey), AIJU (Spain), COFAC (Portugal) and EURO-NET (Italy). The meeting has been attended for Euro-net by Alessia Di Tolla as researcher working on the development of the activities of the project. The project aims at equipping education and training systems with a free educational digital library with a “creative commons” license to support teachers in developing innovative skills by safeguarding the inclusive nature of learning opportunities, and, at the same time, to support students in acquiring reading and creative competences to increase basic skills’ levels in primary education. The project envisages 5 work packages, which are all aimed at increasing the capacity of educational institutions to manage a digital education and use animated storybooks. The project will seek to spread interest in reading and develop students’ comprehension, analytical thinking and creative skills by providing them with a personalized STEM-based library to foster their interests.



34. Multiplier event of the “CONTINUE” project in Potenza

On February 27th the local multiplier local within the project “Connecting European Youth through Storytelling” (acronym “CONTINUE”) took place in Potenza, in Italy. The KA3 Erasmus Plus

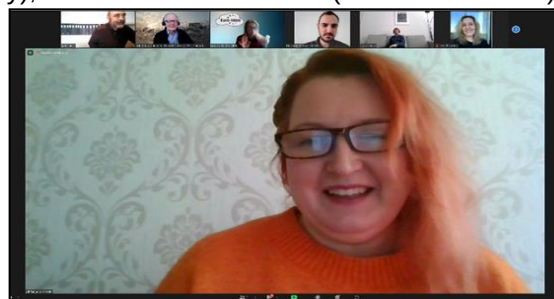


initiative has been approved within the “European Youth Together” application as action number 624723-EPP-1-2020-1-DE-EPPKA3-EU-YTH-TOG. The dissemination event to the public was held by the association Youth Europe Service, one of the two Italian partners of the “CONTINUE” project, and conducted by the staff of the Potenza-based organization which, during the event, has showed to the participants the activities carried out and the products developed within the project. The “CONTINUE” project, which was concluded on March 14th, 2023, has been developed in Europe by a

partnership consisting of: Comparative Research Network EV (Germany – project coordinator), People’s Voice Media (UK), Crossing Borders (Denmark), FAJDP (Portugal), Per Esempio (Italy), Artemisszió Foundation (Hungary), Active Youth (Lithuania) and the before mentioned Potenza-based association Youth Europe Service (Italy). The event on February 27th was attended by more than 15 participants (most of them were teachers, trainers, university student and third sector workers) who have extremely appreciated the activities carried out within the project (which was aimed at supporting young people living in marginalized situations and youth workers who in turn support them, through the development of tools and activities to help them find, promote and co-create solutions to the problems that arose during the pandemic through a bottom up approach). At the end of the event, some of the participants have asked to take part to other projects of the YES association in the future as volunteers or staff members, thus bringing and exporting their own educational and work backgrounds. More information on the project and the activities are available on the website <https://www.continue.community/> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/continue.eu>.

35. First meeting for the “Green and Sustainable Food Educators” project

On March 3rd was held online the first meeting of the partners working on the European project “Green and Sustainable Food Educators”. The initiative has been approved as action number 2022-1-FI01-KA220-VET-000085304 in Finland by the Erasmus Plus National Agency within the “Cooperation partnerships in vocational education and training” actions. During the meeting, the partners - University of Turku (Finland – project coordinator), Euro-Idea Fundacja Społeczno-Kulturalna (Poland), Youth Europe Service (Italy), Horeca Academie bv (The Netherlands), M.M.C Management Center Limited (Cyprus) and Raison seudun koulutuskuntayhtymä (Finland) – have presented their organizations and discussed about the beginning of the activities to be developed within the next 3 years and by December 30th, 2025. The initiative focuses on raising awareness of food waste and aims at developing a new generation of vocational educators in green and sustainable food skills according to the environmental and climate goals established by the European Commission: the results of the project will provide materials to train and equip trainers to educate those citizens who are interested in changing their consumption behaviors and habits, in reducing the ecologic footprint related to food consumption, and in reducing food waste. The objectives of the project are: enabling behavioral changes regarding consumption habits; preparing people to become drivers of change in line with the environmental and climate challenges; enabling the adaptation of VET to the needs of the labor market and the evolution resulting from a sustainable and green approach to work; contributing to innovation in VET through relevant teaching and learning materials to be used in different contexts by “genuine food educators”; increasing skills and competences within partners’ staff through a mix of formal and non-formal learning.



36. “Green Youth” project: first meeting in Terceira

From March 2nd to March 5th, including travel days, the first meeting within the European project “Green Youth - . Educational materials for environmental sustainability” (acronym “Green Youth”) took place on the Terceira island. The initiative has been approved as action number 2021-2-PT02-KA220-YOU-000047993 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Portugal within the actions of the Erasmus+ Program KA220-YOU – Cooperation partnerships in youth. During the meeting, the partners - Associacao Juvenil Da Ilha Terceira (Portugal – project coordinator), Institute of Entrepreneur Ship Development (Greece), Youth Europe Service (Italy), Avrasya Yenilikçi Toplum Derneği (Turkey) and Vaev (Austria) – have discussed about all the activities within the project and how to make up for the valuable time lost due to the delays (12 months more or less) of the Portuguese coordinator in starting the project. The project aims at addressing the necessity of an accessible and ecological education and at providing youth workers with tools



and methodologies to involve young people and volunteers in matters related to sustainability and its challenges. “Green Youth” will cover many ecological topics and initiatives such as the creation of modern, accessible and appealing materials in order to guide the target groups in their path toward greater environmental friendliness and awareness: for this reason the project focuses on providing young people (aged between 14 and 18) with the

necessary skills and online tools in order to become more aware of the environment, to be more knowledgeable citizens, to have more information to become active in the development of future green societies.

37. Online kick-off meeting of the “RESCUE” project

On march 6th and 7th was held online the official kick-off meeting of the European project “Raise your voice against Plastic”, acronym “RESCUE”. The initiative has been approved as action number 2022-1-AT01-KA220-YOU-000086418 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Austria within the actions of the Erasmus+ Program KA220-YOU – Cooperation partnerships in youth. During the meeting, the partners - Sudwind Verein fur Entwicklungsp Olitik und Globale Gerechtigkeit (Austria – project coordinator), Jugend- & Kulturprojekt Ev (Germany), Kainotomia & Sia Ee (Greece), Stowarzyszeni e Centrum Wspierania Edukacji I Przedsiębiorcz Osci (Poland), Youth Europe Service (Italy) and Cuiablue OÜ (Estonia) – have presented their organizations and decided on the first steps to start the activities to be developed by November 30th, 2024. The

RESCUE project aims at increasing environmental awareness among young people (through the development of an e-learning platform) in relation to the long-term impact of the use of plastic on the environment and human health. It also aims at promoting more sustainable consumption patterns and at implementing green initiatives and dissemination campaigns to the audience. Furthermore, RESCUE will provide young people, youth workers and organizations’ staff with tools in order to become real agents of change by teaching them how to save resources, how to reduce energy consumption, how to reduce waste, how to provide carbon offsets, how to afford sustainable food and green mobility, by developing various activities (laboratories, awareness-raising campaigns, etc.) and by promoting new behavioral changes for individuals, new consumption habits and lifestyles.



38. Kick-off meeting in Berlin for the “GREEN URBAN PATHS” project

On March 24th took place in Berlin, in Germany, the first transnational meeting of the project “GREEN URBAN PATHS” (acronym “G&PS”). The initiative has been approved in Denmark by the Erasmus Plus National Agency within the program KA220-ADU Cooperation partnerships in adult education, as action number 2021-1-DK01-KA220-ADU-000033665. The project’s start has been delayed due to some issues of the lead partner and it will be necessary to quickly catch up for the time lost, hence the entire partnership will be forced to shorten the available time to develop the interesting intellectual outputs envisaged by the project’s activities and related to a more ecological vision of tourist paths. The meeting has been attended for Youth Europe Service (one of the Italian partners of the initiative) by two delegates who have presented the many activities carried out by the Potenza-based association, which has developed around 70 international projects and has won 5 European awards. The partnership working on this project consists of 6 organizations: Køge Business College (Denmark – project coordinator), TQC SRL and Youth Europe Service (both from Italy), Comparative Research Network EV (Germany), Associació



Educativa I Cultural Blue Beehive (Spain), Stando LTD (Cyprus). During the meeting the partners have presented themselves and have talked about the actions and activities to develop within the project, have established deadlines and the following steps in order to catch up with the delay since the project’s start. The “GREEN URBAN PATHS” project is aimed at operators, educators and facilitators who desire to know, understand and support the dynamics for the development of innovative, dynamic and attractive sustainable tourist paths in order to make the territory greener.

The project intends to implement the creation of paths to enhance tourism and improve the accessibility in adult education by using latest generation digital products (apps and platforms) in combination with the theatrical storytelling, in order to develop products to promote environmentally friendly solutions in the cities of Denmark, Germany, Spain, Italy and Cyprus. For this reason, multimedia guides with QR codes, augmented reality and animations will be developed, and these will be available on a specific app for mobile phones or tablets. The production of this output will be coordinated and developed by the association Youth Europe Service, which has great experience in this area since its technicians and highly professionalized staff has developed similar products (all highly appreciated) in other previous Erasmus+ Programs.

39. Award from INAPP to the “EUCYCLE” project run by GODESK

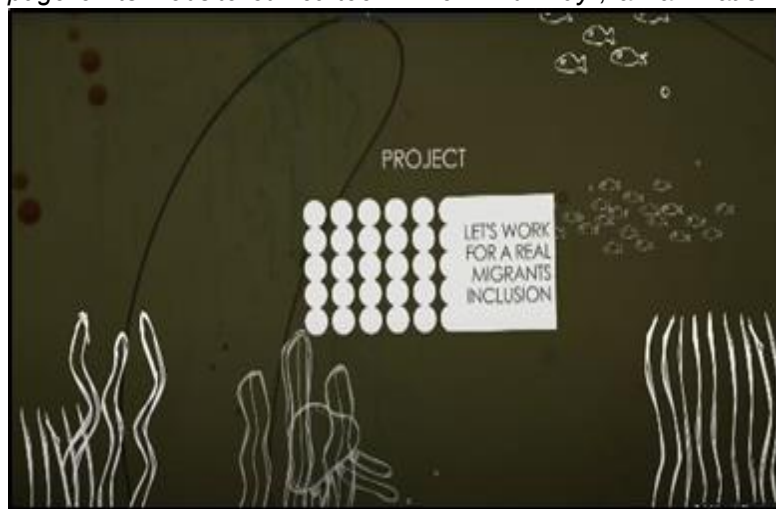
The Italian Erasmus Plus National Agency (INAPP), responsible for the Erasmus Plus projects related to the vocational training, has assigned the Best Practice Award to the project “Upcycling Europe - Sharing good practices on Circular Economy through European Partnership” (acronym “EUCYCLE”) – action number 2020-1-IT01-KA202-008379. The EUCYCLE project, which has been coordinated on the European level by the Potenza-based startup GODESK SRL (which since 2005 has created a significant co-working space and an



innovation space in Potenza and has become a point of reference for all the innovative enterprises in Basilicata) has been carried out by a partnership consisting of Euro-Idea Fundacja Społeczno-Kulturalna (Poland), Kainotomia (Greece), Chamber of Commerce of Basilicata (Italy), University of Bari “Aldo Moro” (Italy), FA Magdeburg GmbH (Germany) and MiTale (Finland). “We are extremely pleased with this award to our project – has stated Antonino Imbesi, GODESK SRL’s director – because it demonstrates the quality of our commitment as well as the result of our constant and professional work carried out throughout the project’s duration in order to spread awareness in the partnership’s countries and beyond of the need to recycle materials as much as possible for the sake and survival of ourselves and our planet. The National Agency has assigned a very high score to the final report (89/100) thus classifying the initiative as a best practice of the Erasmus program and congratulating on this achievement and for having made known to a wider audience the principles of circular economy, despite the pandemic period”. Citizens and governments have recently paid more attention to circular economy, both because of the pandemic and also thanks to the launch of the European Commission’s “Green Deal”. “All the partners have worked with great commitment so that this result could have been achieved – has concluded Antonino Imbesi. – Now the common goal is to promote a second step of the initiative in one of the next EU calls for proposals in order to concretely put into practice all the useful methodologies for a healthier and more environmentally friendly life around us. We are already working on carrying out a project which combines the experiences of EUCYCLE and transfers them to higher levels in order to develop innovative activities and digital products aligned with the indications of the European Year of Competencies, which will be formally launched on May 9th, 2023”. More information on the project are available on the website <https://eucycle.wordpress.com/> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Eucycle-project-101446965239402>.

40. Award to “Let’s work for a real migrants inclusion!”

The Potenza-based association Youth Europe Service has received the Best Practice Award of the Erasmus Plus Program from the Erasmus Plus National Agency INDIRE for the project “Let’s work for a real migrants inclusion!”. “We are extremely proud that our project – has stated Maria Domenica De Rosa, President of the Youth Europe Service association – has received such a prestigious European award, one more award to the previous awards won by our organization. We had been hoping in this award since the National Agency Indire had published on the front page of its website our cartoon “The Third Way”, an animation that has brought emotion in all



those who have watched it, including the Italian tutors of the Italian National Agency”. The animated video has been developed by an all-Italian team composed by Antonino Imbesi (production director), Antonia Bruno (subjects, texts and voice) and Gianluca Lagrotta (illustrations and animation), and has been one of the many products developed within the “LWRMI” project, which is an initiative focused on the exchange of best practices among 7 organizations from 5

different countries – Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey, England and Greece – to try to find solutions to the issue of refugees and migrants (which is one of the biggest issues that the European Union and mainly Italy are facing). The animation conveys a really powerful message in order to encourage people to reconsider the aid to migrants and refugees and to decrease deaths in the Mediterranean Sea. “In this project – has explained Maria Domenica De Rosa – we have obtained, despite the pandemic, exceptional results in terms of products developed and people involved. In addition to the animation “The Third Way” (with subtitles in 6 languages), 75

interviews have been conducted with NGOs staff members working with refugees; 125 citizens have been involved in a local survey on reception and integration issues; 75 interviews have been conducted with refugees and asylum seekers. Furthermore, we have organized: 4 multicultural festivals in Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy; 5 language courses in Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, England and Italy; 3 transnational project meetings (including one online meeting) and 3 international trainings (including one via Zoom). Moreover, we have developed: more than 30 radio podcasts in Italy, England and Greece; 6 newsletters; 1 brochure translated in the five partners' languages; a multilingual website and a truly eye-catching logo. Lastly, we carried out a research to identify 26 good practices of integration and inclusion from which we have drawn the content to publish an e-book (translated in 5 languages) including the 15 practices considered as the best ones. Additionally, we have also carried out 260 dissemination activities using social media. In short, these results are valuable and have been hard to achieve." More information about the project can be found on the website <http://migrantinclusion.eu/> and on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/LWRMI> , and the 2D animation is available on YouTube <https://youtu.be/500xZgrpCts>.

41. Translation of the survey completed within the “VRP4Youth” project

Within the project “Innovative Integration Between Virtual Reality and Rapid Prototyping for Youth” (acronym “VRP4Youth”), an initiative approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Turkey as action number 2022-1-TR01-KA220-YOU-000089257 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-YOU – Cooperation Partnerships in Youth, partners have recently completed the translation of the survey in the various languages of the partnership, which will be submitted to 3 target groups (unemployed youth, academics and representatives of organizations and companies working in the project sector) in the following weeks. The partnership working on the VRP4Youth project is composed by: Gazi Universitesi (Turkey – project coordinator), Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan (Sweden), Association of Academicians Union (Turkey), Instituto Politecnico Do Porto (Portugal) and Godesk SRL (Italy). The objective is to increase youth employment in Europe in the long-term, as well as foster the improvement of young people's skills in the sectors of virtual reality (VR), rapid prototyping (RP) which are growing sectors offering new job opportunities for those with the right knowledge and operational skills. The survey will be carried out in all member countries of the European partnership working on the project and aims at assessing the use of these new technologies in universities and companies, and at assessing whether unemployed youth have access to sectoral training opportunities in each member state. More information on the project and its activities and products are available on the official website: <https://vrp4youth.org/> or on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/people/VRP4Youth/100090467855108/>.

