



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



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Bimonthly newsletter:

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

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



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1. EU budget 2024: Enabling Europe to address its priorities

The Commission has proposed an annual EU budget of €189.3 billion for 2024.

The budget will be complemented by an estimated €113 billion in payments for grants under NextGenerationEU, the EU's post-pandemic recovery instrument. Their combined firepower will keep driving Europe's ongoing economic recovery and create jobs, while strengthening Europe's



strategic autonomy. The EU faced exceptional challenges in the last years, including fast rising inflation, which put considerable pressure on the ability of the budget to further respond to new developments. Nevertheless, the draft budget for 2024 continues to provide key funding to the EU's political priorities as planned. Green and digital spending will continue to be prioritised to make Europe more resilient and fit for the future. The draft budget 2024 directs funds to where they can make the greatest difference, in line with the most crucial recovery needs of the EU Member

States and our partners around the world. The funding will help modernise and strengthen our Union, by fostering the green and digital transitions, creating jobs and strengthening Europe's role in the world. The Commission will continue to stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes. Following Russia's war of aggression against the country, the EU budget has been fully mobilised to support Ukraine, and EU Member States welcoming refugees, however its availabilities have been exhausted. The Commission will assess future support to Ukraine in the context of the forthcoming review of its long-term budget 2021-2027. To address the EU's various other priorities, the Commission proposes to allocate the following amounts to the various Commission priorities (in commitments):

- €53.8 billion for the Common Agricultural Policy and €1.1 billion for the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, for Europe's farmers and fishers, but also to strengthen the resilience of the agri-food and fisheries sectors and to provide the necessary scope for crisis management.
- €47.9 billion for regional development and cohesion to support economic, social and territorial cohesion, as well as infrastructure supporting the green transition and Union priority projects.
- €15.8 billion to support our partners and interests in the world, of which €11.4 billion under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI — Global Europe), €2.1 billion for the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III), and €1.7 billion for Humanitarian Aid (HUMA).
- €13.6 billion for research and innovation, of which €12.8 billion for Horizon Europe, the Union's flagship research programme. The Draft Budget also includes the financing of the European Chips Act under Horizon Europe and through redeployment from other programmes.
- €4.6 billion for European strategic investments, of which €2.7 billion for the Connecting Europe Facility to improve cross-border infrastructure, €1.3 billion for the Digital Europe Programme to shape the Union's digital future, and €348 million for InvestEU for key priorities (research and innovation, twin green and digital transition, the health sector, and strategic technologies).
- €2.1 billion for spending dedicated to space, mainly for the European Space Programme, which will bring together the Union's action in this strategic field.
- €10.3 billion for people, social cohesion, and values, of which €3.96 billion for the rising borrowing costs for NGEU (to be kept under close review), €3.7 billion Erasmus+ to create education and mobility opportunities for people, €332 million to support artists and creators around Europe, and €215 million to promote justice, rights, and values.
- €2.4 billion for environment and climate action, of which €745 million for the LIFE programme to support climate change mitigation and adaptation, and €1.5 billion for the Just Transition Fund to make sure that the green transition works for all.
- €2.2 billion for protecting our borders, of which €1.1 billion for the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF), and €874 million (total EU contribution) for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).
- €1.7 billion for migration-related spending, of which €1.5 billion to support migrants and asylum-seekers in line with our values and priorities.

- €1.6 billion to address defence challenges, of which €638 million to support capability development and research under the European Defence Fund (EDF), €241 million to support Military Mobility, €260 million for the new short-term defence instrument (EDIRPA) and €343 million to support the production of ammunition.
- €947 million to ensure the functioning of the Single Market, including €602 million for the Single Market Programme, and €200 million for work on anti-fraud, taxation, and customs.
- €754 million for EU4Health to ensure a comprehensive health response to people's needs, as well as €230 million to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU) to be able deploy operational assistance quickly in case of a crisis.
- €726 million for security, of which €315 million for the Internal Security Fund (ISF), which will combat terrorism, radicalisation, organised crime, and cybercrime.
- €213 million for secure satellite connections under the new Union Secure Connectivity Programme.

The draft budget for 2024 is part of the Union's long-term budget as adopted at the end of 2020, including subsequent technical adjustments, and seeks to turn its priorities into concrete annual deliverables. The budget remains on track to dedicate 30% of the long-term budget and the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument on combatting climate change.

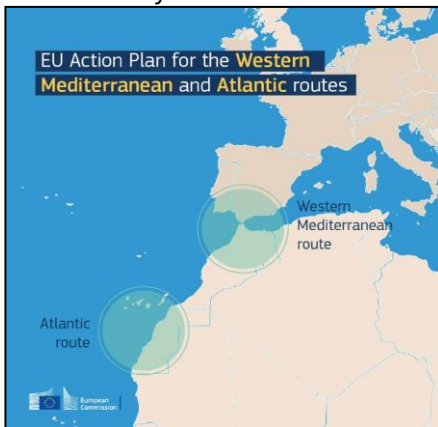
Background

The draft EU budget for 2024 includes the expenditure covered by the appropriations under the long-term budget ceilings, financed from own resources. These are topped up by expenditure under NextGenerationEU, financed from borrowing on the capital markets. For the "core" budget, two amounts for each programme are proposed in the draft budget – commitments and payments. "Commitments" refer to the funding that can be agreed in contracts in a given year; and "payments" to the money actually paid out. All amounts are in current prices. With a budget of up to €807 billion in current prices, NextGenerationEU helps repair the immediate economic and social damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic and make the EU fit for the future. The instrument helps build a post-COVID-19 EU that is greener, more digital, more resilient and better prepared for the current and forthcoming challenges. The centrepiece of NextGenerationEU is the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) – an instrument for providing grants and loans to support reforms and investments in the EU Member States. The contracts/commitments under NextGenerationEU can be concluded until the end of 2023, the payments linked to the borrowing will follow until the end of 2026.

2. Action Plan for the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic route

The Commission is presenting an EU Action Plan on the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic migration routes.

In her letter to the European Council of 20 March 2023, President **von der Leyen** reiterated the Commission's ongoing work with the Member States most concerned on the Action plans for the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic too. This Action Plan is also a direct follow-up to the Extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs Council in November 2022. The Ministers committed



then to implement the EU Action Plan for the Central Mediterranean, followed by the EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans, and endorsed the development of similar action plans for the main migration routes. The EU has been strengthening its partnership with key countries of origin and transit along the route, in full coordination with its Member States as Team Europe. Measures undertaken by the EU, Member States and international partners have contributed to the important decrease of irregular arrivals. Nonetheless, the number of irregular arrivals remain sustained. This calls for continuous vigilance and concrete operational responses, anchored on the current effective cooperation. This Action plan presents 18 targeted operational measures structured along two pillars. The goal is to support Member States to

strengthen migration management along this route, preventing irregular departures and saving lives, while working closely with key partner countries.

Pillar One: Strengthen engagement with partner countries

Reinforced cooperation with partner countries is key to address migration challenges and counter smuggling. Through a whole-of-route approach, the focus is set on preventing irregular migration by combatting smuggling of migrants and trafficking of human beings, strengthening border management. To this end, the EU will step up work on: Identify short-term operational priorities and coordination measures among EU and Member States to address migration with a whole of the route approach, in a Team Europe approach. Prevent irregular migration by combatting smuggling of migrants and trafficking of human beings. By implementing the Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnership with Morocco, launching in this context a regional programme funded under NDICI-Global Europe, and overall consolidating counter-smuggling activities with partner countries in Africa along the whole route, while sustaining efforts to fight human trafficking. Border management by strengthening capacities of Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia to develop targeted actions preventing irregular departures and fostering increased bilateral cooperation between Frontex and Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal. Return, readmission and reintegration by supporting protection and voluntary return operations in North Africa and the Sahel countries, and enhancing the ongoing engagement to improve practical cooperation on readmission and a sustainable reintegration of returnees in their countries of origin. Protection and legal pathways by fostering the effective implementation of protection mechanisms in partner countries, while promoting and supporting legal pathways to protection in the EU through resettlement, humanitarian admission and complementary pathways. Labour migration and Talent Partnerships. The operationalisation of the Talent Partnership with Morocco is a priority. The Commission is currently also assessing the feasibility of launching with Nigeria and Senegal legal migration and mobility schemes.



Pillar Two: Strengthen operational measures on search and rescue, return procedures, as well as smoother and faster voluntary solidarity

Reinforcing effective border management and returns from the EU to partner countries is essential in a functioning migration management system. The EU will accelerate its work to: Frontex targeted assessment of the situation in the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic, in close cooperation with Member States. Reinforced cooperation on returns to partner countries between EU Member States (return counselling, support with identification and travel document issuance, coordination of return flights, etc.), as well as the sustainable reintegration of returnees, including with the support of the EU Return Coordinator and through the High-Level Network for Return. Link up the reintegration of voluntary returnees with Member States and European companies' investments in countries of origin and transit, in countries of origin and transit, notably when it comes to fostering job creation and skills development. Achieve more efficient and faster reactions under the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism, with the support of the Commission and the EU Agency for Asylum. As the Mechanism will continue its implementation, pledging States are also encouraged to be flexible alleviating the pressure on the reception system in Member States of first entry in line.

Next Steps

The Commission presents this Action Plan in view of the upcoming Justice and Home Affairs Council on 8-9 June and of the European Council on 29-30 June. The EU and the Member States will need to work jointly to achieve the goals set in this Action Plan and to ensure its effective implementation. Reporting and monitoring through the existing Commission and Council mechanisms are essential. This Action Plan complements the ongoing work targeting other key migratory routes to Europe and may act as a model to develop similar plans for other migratory routes.

Background

In 2018, irregular arrivals to the EU via the Western Mediterranean route increased significantly. As of 2019, while irregular arrivals saw a decrease on the Western Mediterranean route, they saw an important increase on the Atlantic route to the Canary Islands, particularly in 2020 and 2021 and with considerable decrease in 2022 (by 31%, compared to 2021) and in 2023 so far. When it comes to the long-term sustainable solution to manage migration, the Commission continues working to deliver on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. In parallel to this, the Commission is proposing a series of operational measures to address current challenges along the main migratory routes to Europe. This Action Plan is the third one that the Commission put forward to support Member States, following the one on Central Mediterranean and Western

Balkans in 2022. The EU will continue to promote sustainable and structural solutions to our common migration challenges, based on a comprehensive, whole-of-route approach, and including renewed action on the external dimension of migration.

3. Misuse of commercial transport for irregular migration

The Commission is proposing new measures to address the increasing misuse of commercial transport by criminal networks facilitating irregular migration to the EU.

President von der Leyen announced ahead of the European Council in February that the



Commission will complete work in the first half of 2023 on a targeted toolbox of measures to ensure that transport operators do not facilitate irregular migration, including through targeted outreach to transport operators. The European Council also called on the Commission and the Council to take forward relevant tools to address transport operators that engage in or facilitate human trafficking or migrant smuggling. Through this toolbox, the Commission is supporting Member States with strategic measures, in three pillars: legislative, operational, and diplomatic.

The goal is to address cases where transport means are misused to facilitate irregular migration to the EU, with a particular focus on airways. The key actions are structured under three pillars:

Pillar one: The EU legal framework

In the toolbox, the Commission calls for resuming and swiftly concluding the negotiations on the Regulation on measures against transport operators that facilitate or engage in trafficking in persons or smuggling of migrants in relation to illegal entry into the territory of the EU. These new rules will be key to reinforce the EU legal framework in this area. The Commission will also explore, together with the Member States, how the EU's Facilitators Package announced in the renewed EU action plan against migrant smuggling (2021-2025) can best be applied to transport operators that facilitate unauthorised entry and transit to the EU. Legal measures also include the possibility to suspend or revoke the operating licence of an EU air carrier failing to meet good repute requirements under the relevant EU transport legislation or consider using existing EU Common Foreign Security Policy restrictive measures to target relevant transport operators facilitating irregular migration to the EU.

Pillar two: Situational awareness and early warning

Strengthening the use of the Blueprint Network and reinforcing its capacity is a priority to improve situational awareness on the use of transport operators to facilitate irregular migration to the EU. Cooperation and information exchange between the Commission, Frontex and Eurocontrol is also vital to monitor flights and gather data on emerging routes. Once new rules on border management are approved, the exchange of information will be complemented by the usage of Advanced Passenger Information data. Supporting the EU neighbouring and transit countries to develop systems of travellers' intelligence will also increase situational awareness.

Pillar three: Engagement with partner countries and transport operators

Considering the importance and the attractiveness of the EU transport market, the EU has significant leverage with third-country transport authorities and operators and can play a key role in setting high transport standards globally, including in terms of developing measures to counter the misuse of commercial transport by criminal networks that facilitate irregular migration. The EU will enhance its engagement with transport operators and authorities in third countries, especially in the aviation sector. This can also be kick-started by launching information campaigns on specific routes, establishing information exchanges and networks on recognising and reporting patterns of facilitation of irregular migration together with transport operators. Providing training and guidance with EU support to authorities and personnel of air transport operators in non-EU countries is also one of the key actions. The EU can explore with partner countries posting liaison officers at key airports and using to the full extent other liaison officers - including European Migration Liaison Officers. Engaging with the aviation industry, civil authorities and organisations – such as International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association – is another key action to raise awareness and develop international guidelines, contributing to an early warning system.

Next steps

This toolbox will contribute to discussions at the Justice and Home Affairs Council later this week and ahead of EUCO. The EU and the Member States will need to work jointly to ensure the effective implementation of the proposed measures.

Background

The use of commercial means of transport, mainly by air, to facilitate irregular migration to the EU has progressively emerged as a new *modus operandi* of smuggling networks. Criminal networks are increasingly taking advantage of commercial flights between third countries under various pretexts, such as visa-free policy regimes or apparent labour migration opportunities, to bring migrants to countries close to or bordering the EU, from where the migrants then seek to irregularly enter the EU. In November 2021, the Commission proposed a Regulation on measures against transport operators that facilitate or engage in trafficking in persons or smuggling of migrants in relation to illegal entry into the territory of the EU. The EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans of 5 December 2022 already proposed to consolidate an operational toolbox with measures targeting transport operators.

4. Pact for Skills has already helped 2 million people that benefit

The Pact for Skills 2022 annual survey results are in. The EU Pact for Skills has significantly helped companies and workers across Europe in advancing skills training.

According to the survey, 2 million people have benefited from up-and re-skilling activities under the Pact. 15,500 training programmes were either updated or developed, and Pact members have invested €160 million in skills initiatives. This is an important contribution to the European Year of Skills. By bringing together industry, social partners, vocational and education providers, public authorities, employment services and others in different sectors, the Pact for Skills promotes a collective approach to tackling challenges and shortages in skills development. This is especially relevant in a rapidly changing world of work and for the green and digital transitions. Over 80% of the surveyed Pact members value the support provided by the Pact in ensuring concrete training offers for workers across Europe. Skills partnerships under the Pact have proven effective in addressing sectorial skills needs and have made a positive impact on enhancing the skills of workers. To date, 1,500 organisations have joined the Pact for Skills, with 18 large-scale skills partnerships established in strategic sectors such as renewable energy, the care sector and microelectronics. This means at least one large-scale skills partnership has been set up for each industrial ecosystem of the EU Industrial Strategy. Together, all partnerships have pledged to provide training to over 10 million people in the coming years. The survey report also showcases concrete examples of successful skilling actions by Pact members across Europe, such as: the Femxa Formación in Spain facilitated the integration of over 60 women with a migrant background into the labour market in Latvia and Spain through training programmes; the Wheel organisation in Ireland launched a Leadership Academy to support skills development in the social economy sector in Ireland. The platform offers targeted training material and relevant resources; the Municipality of Lisbon introduced a “Digital Skills Passport” project for micro-credentials of digital skills; the Emphasys Centre in Cyprus, in partnership with an NGO, makes their learning hub available during non-working hours to provide opportunities for skills development to vulnerable groups, including young people and people with migrant backgrounds, older people and jobseekers; the European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations designed masterclasses to upskill trainers for tourist guide, focusing on inclusion and digital skills.



Other key findings

The survey reveals the positive and concrete impact large-scale skills partnerships in empowering workers with the necessary skills for success. For their sectors, Pact members have reported enhanced monitoring of the skills needed, a greater availability of high-quality training opportunities, and the implementation of more inclusive activities to boost skills. Together, 21,500 stakeholders have joined forces through skills partnerships or networks (e.g., industrial clusters) to drive impactful skills development initiatives and reached 19 million people in Europe through promotion and dissemination activities.

Background

The Pact for Skills, a flagship initiative under the European Skills Agenda, was launched on 10 November 2020. It brings together relevant partners to identify skills requirements and make commitments to reskill workers. The aim is to foster partnerships that address labour market needs, support green and digital transitions, and promote local and regional growth strategies. Partners joining the Pact sign a Charter, outlining key principles on quality training, lifelong learning and inclusion. They commit to translating their engagement into concrete actions on upskilling and reskilling. By joining the Pact, stakeholders gain access to networking and knowledge sharing and resource hubs. The Commission also provides information and guidance on EU funding and programmes for skills development. The Pact for Skills annual survey is an important monitoring tool that informs mutual learning activities within the Pact. Its findings will also be discussed at the “Making skills count” conference taking place on 8-9 June 2023, as part of the European Year of Skills. The survey, conducted between February and March 2023, received responses from 461 Pact members, capturing their progress made up to December 2022. The Pact for Skills also contributes to the EU's headline targets, endorsed by Member States, that by 2030, at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year and at least 78% of the population aged 20 to 64 should be in employment by 2030.

5. Digital Health: landmark digital health initiative

The European Commission and the World Health Organization (WHO) have announced the launch of a landmark digital health partnership.

In June 2023, WHO will take up the European Union (EU) system of digital COVID-19 certification to establish a global system that will help facilitate global mobility and protect citizens across the world from on-going and future health threats. This is the first building block of the WHO Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN) that will develop a wide range of digital products to deliver better health for all. Based on the EU Global Health Strategy and WHO Member States Global Strategy on Digital Health, the initiative follows the 2 December 2022 agreement signed by Commissioner **Kyriakides** and WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to enhance strategic cooperation on global health issues. This further bolsters a robust multilateral system with WHO at its core, powered by a strong EU. This partnership will include close collaboration in the development, management and implementation of the WHO system, benefitting from the European Commission's ample technical expertise in the field. A first step is to ensure that the current EU digital certificates continue to function effectively.



A global WHO system building on EU legacy

One of the key elements in the European Union's work against the COVID-19 pandemic has been the digital COVID certificate. To facilitate free movement within its borders, the EU swiftly established interoperable COVID-19 certificates (entitled 'EU Digital COVID Certificate' or 'EU DCC'). Based on open-source technologies and standards it allowed also for the connection of non-EU countries that issue certificates according to EU DCC specifications, becoming the most widely used solution around the world. From the onset of the pandemic, WHO engaged with all WHO Regions to define overall guidelines for such certificates. To help strengthen global health preparedness in the face of growing health threats, WHO is establishing a global digital health certification network which builds upon the solid foundations of the EU DCC framework, principles and open technologies. With this collaboration, WHO will facilitate this process globally under its own structure with the aim to allow the world to benefit from convergence of digital certificates. This includes standard-setting and validation of digital signatures to prevent fraud. In doing so, WHO will not have access to any underlying personal data, which would continue to be the exclusive domain of governments. The first building block of the global WHO system becomes operational in June 2023 and aims to be progressively developed in the coming months.

A long-term digital partnership to deliver better health for all

To facilitate the uptake of the EU DCC by WHO and contribute to its operation and further development, the European Commission and WHO have agreed to partner in digital health. This partnership will work to technically develop the WHO system with a staged approach to cover additional use cases, which may include, for example, the digitisation of the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis. Expanding such digital solutions will be essential to deliver better health for citizens across the globe. This cooperation is based on the shared values and principles of transparency and openness, inclusiveness, accountability, data protection and privacy, security, scalability at a global level, and equity. The European Commission and WHO will work together to encourage maximum global uptake and participation. Particular attention will be paid to equitable opportunities for the participation by those most in need: low and middle-income countries.

6. Commission proposals on social economy

The Commission recommends concrete measures to support the social economy, which prioritises people, social and environmental causes over profit.

There are 2.8 million social economy entities in Europe, which employ in total 13.6 million people to tackle key challenges in our societies. They span a diverse range of sectors, from social and care services to housing, recreation, and affordable energy; and include cooperatives, mutuals, non-profit associations, foundations and social enterprises. The proposal aims to create favourable conditions for social economy organisations to thrive and grow, and raise awareness of their potential, particularly in creating quality jobs, supporting innovation and social inclusion. Following up to the 2021 Social Economy Action Plan, the Commission presents: a proposal for a Council recommendation for Member States to design and implement social economy strategies; the social economy gateway, a one-stop shop website to provide social economy organisations with information on EU funding, training opportunities and more.

Fresh impetus to promote the social economy

Despite their contribution to society, social economy organisations often face obstacles in developing and scaling up their activities due to a lack of understanding and recognition of their business models. To overcome these challenges, the proposed Council Recommendation calls on Member States to develop comprehensive strategies for the social economy to promote an enabling environment for the social economy across all relevant areas, by adapting policy and legal frameworks. In doing so, the aim is to promote quality job creation, boost the local economy, and strengthen social and territorial cohesion. For instance, the Commission proposes measures to: Design labour market policies that support employees in social enterprises (e.g., through training), promote social entrepreneurship, and ensure fair working conditions through social dialogue and collective bargaining. Acknowledge the role of the social economy for social inclusion, e.g. in providing accessible and high-quality social and care services and housing, particularly for disadvantaged groups. Improve access to public and private funding, including to EU funds. Enable access to market opportunities and public procurement. Make use of the opportunities provided by State aid rules to support the social economy, including provisions for start-up aid, reintegration of disadvantaged workers, and support for local infrastructure. Ensure that taxation systems support the social economy, through the simplification of administrative procedures and the consideration of appropriately designed tax incentives. Raise awareness of the social economy and its contributions, notably through research and data. In addition, the Commission also recommends that Member States make optimal use of available EU funding, such as the European Social Fund Plus, the European Regional Development Fund, and InvestEU, to assist Member States in promoting the social economy. The Commission can also provide further support by collecting data and conducting research on the social economy within the EU.



One-stop shop for social economy support

As part of this proposals, the Commission is also launching the social economy gateway, a one-stop-shop website that provides social economy entities with information on EU funding, training

opportunities, events, country-specific information, and where to go for additional resources, as a tool for capacity-building.

Next steps

Member States will discuss the Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation with a view to its adoption by the Council. Once adopted, the proposal invites Member States to adopt or update their social economy strategies within 18 months. Member States are also recommended to create a one-stop shop support for the social economy, set up local and/or regional contact points acting as 'social economy ambassadors', and appoint social economy coordinators in national institutions to ensure consistency across policies. The Commission will monitor the implementation of the strategies through regular consultations with Member States via the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee.

Background

In December 2021, the Commission presented the Social Economy Action Plan to help the social economy thrive and fully tap its potential. The new proposal for a Council recommendation and the Social Economy Gateway were two actions announced in the Plan. Another action was the EU-OECD Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA) launched in March this year. It aims to address challenges young entrepreneurs face when setting up their business, such as access to funding and skills, as also confirmed by a recent Eurobarometer survey. Furthermore, as included in the Commission work programme, the Commission will propose later this year a cross-border initiative on associations to enable them to benefit fully from the single market. In addition, the Commission publishes two Staff Working Documents to improve the understanding of relevant tax rules for social economy entities and cross-border public-benefit donations. Social economy organisations play a crucial role in tackling societal challenges and promote fair working conditions by involving employees in decision-making and governance. They also create opportunities for underrepresented groups like women and young people and contribute to making the digital and green transitions fair and inclusive. The social economy helps achieve the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and the 2030 EU headline targets endorsed by EU Member States of having at least 78% of the people aged 20 to 64 in employment, at least 60% in training, and lifting at least 15 million people out of poverty or social exclusion. The social economy package also contributes to the European Year of Skills by encouraging opportunities for skills development within the social economy sector.

7. Proposals to strengthen the EU's sustainable finance agenda

The Commission has put forward a new package of measures to build on and strengthen the foundations of the EU sustainable finance framework.

The transition to a climate-neutral and sustainable economy by 2050 offers new opportunities for companies and citizens across the EU. Many companies and investors have already embarked



on their sustainability journey, as the growing size of sustainable investment testifies. However, companies and investors are also facing challenges in this transition, especially when it comes to complying with new disclosure and reporting requirements. The aim of this package therefore is to ensure that the EU sustainable finance framework continues to support companies and the financial sector,

while encouraging the private funding of transition projects and technologies. Specifically, the Commission is adding additional activities to the EU Taxonomy and proposing new rules for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) rating providers, which will increase transparency on the market for sustainable investments. The package aims to ensure that the sustainable finance framework works for companies that want to invest in their transition to sustainability. It aims also to make the sustainable finance framework easier to use, thereby continuing to contribute effectively to the European Green Deal objectives.

The package in detail:

EU Taxonomy Delegated Acts

The EU Taxonomy is a cornerstone of the EU's sustainable finance framework and an important market transparency tool that helps direct investments to the economic activities most needed for a green transition. The Commission has approved in principle a new set of EU Taxonomy

criteria for economic activities making a substantial contribution to one or more of the non-climate environmental objectives, namely: sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention and control, protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. To complement this, the Commission has adopted targeted amendments to the EU Taxonomy Climate Delegated Act, which expand on economic activities contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation not included so far – in particular in the manufacturing and transport sectors. The inclusion of more economic activities covering all six environmental objectives, and consequently more economic sectors and companies, will increase the usability and the potential of the EU Taxonomy in scaling up sustainable investments in the EU. The criteria are informed to a very large extent by the recommendations of the Platform on Sustainable Finance, published in March and November 2022. The Commission has also adopted amendments to the EU Taxonomy Disclosures Delegated Act, to clarify the disclosure obligations for the additional activities.

Proposal for a regulation of ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) ratings providers

ESG ratings play an important role in the EU sustainable finance market as they provide information to investors and financial institutions regarding, for example, investment strategies and risk management on ESG factors. The ESG ratings market currently suffers from a lack of transparency and the Commission is proposing a Regulation to improve the reliability and transparency of ESG ratings activities. New organisational principles and clear rules on the prevention of conflicts of interest will increase the integrity of the operations of ESG rating providers. These new rules will enable investors to make better informed decisions regarding sustainable investments. Moreover, the proposal will require that ESG rating providers offering services to investors and companies in the EU be authorised and supervised by the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). This will also ensure the quality and reliability of their services to protect investors and ensure market integrity.

Enhancing usability

In addition, the Commission is presenting an overview of the recent measures and tools put forward to address key implementation issues and questions raised by stakeholders. Early reporting trends show that companies across all key economic sectors are using the EU Taxonomy more and more as part of their transition efforts. For instance, this year's initial corporate taxonomy reporting shows encouraging trends among large non-financial companies, with many reporting increasing values of taxonomy alignment, in particular in their capital expenditure. As a first step, the Commission has recently developed a series of targeted measures and initiatives to enhance the usability of the rules and support stakeholders in their implementation. The Commission is also publishing the EU Taxonomy User Guide, a guidance document on the Taxonomy for non-experts. Supporting companies and the financial sector in the implementation of the EU Taxonomy and sustainable finance framework will be a key priority for the Commission in the future.



Transition finance

This package also demonstrates how the EU legal framework can be used effectively to facilitate transition finance. These recommendations on transition finance aim to provide guidance as well as practical examples for companies and the financial sector. These aim to show how companies can use the various tools of the EU sustainable finance framework on a voluntary basis to channel the investments into the transition and manage their risks stemming from climate change and environmental degradation. The objective is to facilitate transition finance, not only for companies that have strong sustainability records already, but also for those that are at different starting points, with credible plans or targets to improve their sustainability performance. It also acknowledges that small and medium-sized enterprises face specific challenges that need to be addressed.

Background and next steps

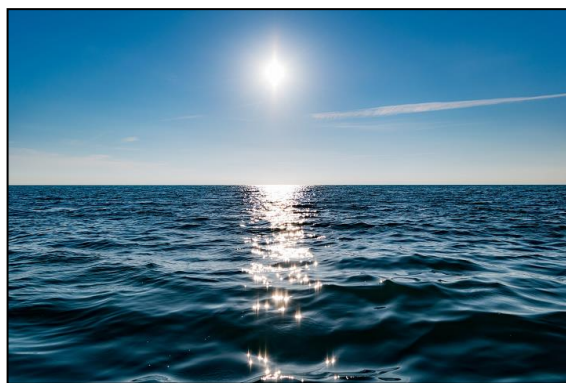
The EU Taxonomy Delegated Acts are approved in principle and once all EU official languages will be made available, they will be adopted and transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council for their scrutiny (four-month period, extendable once by two additional months). They are expected to apply as of January 2024. Regarding the proposal for a regulation of ESG ratings providers, the Commission will now engage in discussions with the European Parliament

and Council. This package follows the launching on Friday 9 June of a four-week feedback period on a first set of sustainability reporting standards for companies. Mandatory reporting standards will ensure transparent and comparable sustainability information. The Commission will consider the feedback received before finalising the standards as delegated acts and submitting them to the European Parliament and Council for scrutiny. Once adopted, these reporting standards will be used by companies subject to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). This will mark another step forward in the transition to a sustainable EU economy.

8. Quality of Europe's bathing waters remains high

The majority of bathing water sites in Europe met the European Union's most stringent 'excellent' water quality standards in 2022, according to the latest annual Bathing Water report published.

The assessment, put together by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in cooperation with the Commission, highlights where swimmers can find the cleanest bathing sites in Europe this summer. The quality of water at coastal sites, which makes up two-thirds of total bathing spots, is generally better than that of inland river and lake sites. In 2022, 88.9% of the EU's coastal bathing sites were classified as being of excellent quality as compared to 79.3% of inland sites. In 2022, 95% of bathing waters in Cyprus, Austria, Greece, and Croatia met the 'excellent'



quality standard. Moreover, in Malta, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, and Luxembourg, all assessed bathing water waters met at least the minimum standard of sufficient quality in 2022. Since the adoption of the Bathing Water Directive in 2006, the share of 'excellent' sites has grown, and has stabilised in recent years, between 85–89% for coastal and 77–81% for inland bathing waters. In 2022, it represented 85.7% of all bathing waters in the EU. The minimum water quality standards were met at 95.9% of all bathing waters in the EU. The share of bathing waters with poor water quality

has dropped in the past decade and has been stable since 2015. In 2022, bathing waters with poor water quality constituted only 1.5% of all bathing waters in the EU. This shows that the health risk of swimming in bathing waters is slowly decreasing in Europe. Bathing water quality at coastal waters is generally better compared to inland waters, due to the more frequent renewal and higher self-purification capacity of open coastal waters. Moreover, many inland bathing waters of central Europe are located at relatively small lakes and ponds, as well as at rivers with a low flow. Compared to coastal areas, these inland waters are more susceptible to short-term pollution caused by heavy summer rains or droughts, especially in the summer. More than 1,800 European bathing waters, or 8%, are located in cities over 100,000 inhabitants, mostly in Greece, France, Italy and Spain. They play an important role in quality of life in cities as well as having ecosystemic benefits.

Background

The assessment for this report is based on the monitoring of 21,973 bathing sites across Europe that were reported to the EEA for the 2022 season. This includes sites in all EU Member States, Albania and Switzerland. These have to be monitored for four consecutive bathing seasons before they can be considered as of either 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient', or 'poor' quality. Alongside this year's Bathing Water Report, the EEA has also released an updated interactive map showing the performance of each bathing site. Updated country reports are also available, as well as more information on the implementation of the directive in countries. In the context of the European Green Deal and the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the Commission is currently assessing whether the Bathing Water Directive is still fit for purpose in order to protect public health and improve water quality, or if there is a need to improve the existing rules and propose relevant updates, including new parameters. The Bathing Water Directive is one of several pieces of EU law that protect water. It is complemented by the Water Framework Directive, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, the Groundwater Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

9. EU Justice Scoreboard 2023

The European Commission has published the eleventh edition of the EU Justice Scoreboard, an annual overview providing comparative data on the efficiency, quality, and independence of justice systems among the EU Member States.



This year's Scoreboard includes figures on 16 new areas, for example, on how national authorities are dealing with corruption, on the length of proceedings related to bribery cases, and on specific arrangements facilitating equal access to justice for older persons, victims of gender-based and domestic violence, and persons generally at risk of discrimination. The 2023 edition also includes, for the first time, specific figures on the salaries of judges and prosecutors, on the appointment of Supreme Court Presidents and Prosecutors General, and on the highest instances exercising constitutional jurisdictions, among others.

Key findings of the 2023 EU Justice Scoreboard:

- **Challenges persist on perception of judicial independence:** A Eurobarometer survey among the **general public** shows that, since 2016, the general public's perception of judicial independence has improved in 15 Member States. Compared to last year, the perception has improved in 12 Member States and at the same time decreased or remained stable in 12 Member States. In a few Member States, the level of perceived independence remains particularly low. Amongst **companies**, another Eurobarometer survey shows the perception of independence has improved in 12 Member States compared to 2016. However, compared to last year, the companies' perception of independence decreased in 13 Member States.
- **An insight into the fight against corruption:** in 12 Member States bribery cases in criminal courts are resolved within a year, while in the remaining 5 where data are available, the proceedings could last up to about 4 years. The 2023 Scoreboard also presents a comparative view of the powers and appointment of the specialised bodies dealing with the prevention of corruption. It also presents a first overview of police and prosecution bodies specialised in the fight against corruption, as well as the appointment procedures for the heads of prosecutor's offices specialised in dealing with corruption.
- **Continued room for improvement in the digitalisation of justice systems:** Only eight Member States have procedural rules, which allow fully or mostly for the use of distance communication and for the admissibility of evidence in digital format only. In 19 Member States, this is possible only in a limited number of situations, such as for certain court users (e.g. parties), but not for all of them (court experts). Moreover, the findings of this year's edition reveal that, with two exceptions, courts and prosecution services in Member States still do not fully use digital technology up to the potential allowed by their procedural rules.
- **Varying degrees of accessibility to justice for people at risk of discrimination and older persons, as well as for victims of gender-based and domestic violence:** 17 Member States provide information on the rights of persons at risk of discrimination and 22 provide easy physical access to court buildings. Additionally, nine Member States took steps to make legal aid more accessible for older people. As regards victims of gender-based and domestic violence, in 12 Member States, all mapped safeguards are in place, including online access to specific information that is relevant to this group, special protection for victims and witnesses, support during judicial proceedings by non-governmental organisation or equality bodies or specific dedicated training for judges. However, nearly a quarter of Member States do not provide online access to relevant information about gender-based violence and victims' rights.

Next steps

The information contained in the EU Justice Scoreboard contributes to the monitoring carried out within the framework of the European Semester, and the Annual Rule of Law Cycle - the findings will feed into the Commission's 2023 Rule of Law Report. The 2023 EU Justice Scoreboard has been further developed to address the need for additional comparative information (such as a new figure on annual salaries of judges and prosecutors and on bodies involved in the fight against corruption), identified during the preparation of the 2023 Rule of Law Report. The Scoreboard's data are also used for the monitoring of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans.

Background

Launched in 2013, the EU Justice Scoreboard is used by the Commission to monitor justice reforms in Member States and is one of the tools in the EU's Rule of Law toolbox. The Scoreboard focuses on the three main elements of an effective justice system: efficiency: indicators on the length of proceedings, clearance rate and number of pending cases; quality: indicators on accessibility (such as legal aid and court fees), training, budget and salaries of judges and prosecutors, human resources and digitalisation; independence: indicators on perceived judicial independence among the general public and companies, and on safeguards relating to judges and the functioning of national prosecution services. As in previous editions, the 2023 edition presents data from two Eurobarometer surveys on how the public and companies perceive judicial independence in each Member State. The findings of the 2023 EU Justice Scoreboard have been taken into account in the country-specific assessment carried out within the 2023 European Semester, as well as in the evaluation of the implementation of Member States' Resilience and Recovery Plans. In 2023, the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (which sets out the strategic guidance for mitigating the negative impacts of the energy shocks and fostering sustainable growth and increasing the EU's resilience) reiterates the link between effective justice systems and an economy that works for people in Member States. Well-functioning and fully independent justice systems have a positive impact on investment decisions and on the willingness of all actors to launch investment projects. Under the 2021-2027 Justice programme, the EU is making over €300 million available for the further development of a European area of justice. It will also help improve the effectiveness of national justice systems and strengthen the rule of law, democracy and protection of fundamental rights, including by ensuring effective access to justice for citizens and businesses. The programme funds activities which cover training for judges and other legal practitioners, mutual learning, judicial cooperation and awareness-raising.

10. Wildfires: EU doubles rescEU firefighting fleet summer 2023

Following up on President von der Leyen's State of the Union speech in September last year, Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič announced the doubling of the rescEU aerial firefighting fleet for this year's wildfire season while speaking at the 10th anniversary of the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre.

rescEU firefighting fleet for 2023

The rescEU firefighting aircraft reserve includes 24 airplanes and 4 helicopters from 10 Member States: two medium scooping airplanes from Croatia; two light planes from Cyprus; two helicopters from Czechia; two medium scooping airplanes and one helicopter from France; two light planes from Germany; two medium scooping airplanes, two light planes and one helicopter from Greece; two medium scooping airplanes and two light planes from Italy; two light planes from Portugal; two medium scooping airplanes from Spain; four light planes from Sweden. In addition, Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia will be sending almost 450 firefighters to be prepositioned in France, Greece and Portugal.

Preventive and monitoring measures

Following the calls from EU Ministers and the European Parliament, in 2022 the Commission developed also a Wildfire Prevention Action Plan. This action plan is organised around three objectives: improve administrative capacity; improve knowledge; increase investments in wildfire prevention action. As part of the prevention action plan, the EU is launching a new Wildfire Peer Review Assessment Methodology. This new tool helps countries assess their capacity to prevent and prepare for wildfires, and supports the exchange of good practices among European countries, within the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. In addition, an Emergency Response Coordination Centre Wildfires Support Team is being created to enable near-real-time monitoring and analysis of the wildfire situation from mid-June to mid-September.



Background

Wildfire prevention, preparedness and response actions work hand in hand to save lives, livelihoods and protect the environment. Having experienced wildfire experts, well-trained firefighters, information technology and sufficient response assets available makes a difference.

The EU ensures a coordinated approach to preventing, preparing and responding to wildfires when those overwhelm national response capacities. When the scale of a wildfire overwhelms the response capabilities of a country, it can request assistance via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Once activated, the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre coordinates and finances assistance made available by EU Member States and nine additional Participating States through spontaneous offers. In addition, the EU has created the European Civil Protection Pool to have a critical number of readily available civil protection capacities allowing for a stronger and coherent collective response. Should the emergency require additional, life-saving assistance, the rescEU_firefighting reserve steps in to provide additional capacities to confront disasters in Europe. The Emergency Response Coordination Centre also monitors the evolution of wildfires with the support of early warning systems such as the European Forest Fire Information System, while the EU's Copernicus emergency satellite mapping service complements operations with detailed information from space.

11. The Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism

The Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism (hereinafter, the Prize) was launched on 16 October 2020 as a tribute to the Maltese anti-corruption investigative journalist and blogger who was assassinated in a car bomb attack in 2017. The Prize, with the support of the European

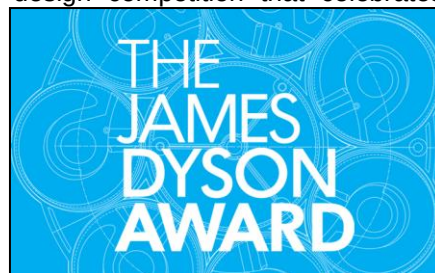


Parliament, will be awarded annually to in-depth journalism pieces undertaken by EU-based professional journalists. The Prize aims to recognise outstanding in-depth journalism work on topics that are relevant for the European Union (EU) as a whole or some of its Member States, and contribute to the promotion of principles and values of the EU, as enshrined in the European Charter of Human Rights. There will be one single prize of €20,000 awarded annually. The Prize is open to

individual professional journalists or teams of professional journalists of any nationality. Applications may be submitted by authors themselves or by professional media organisations and associations on their behalf. Entries must have been published/broadcast in print, audiovisual or online media outlets based in one of the 27 EU Member States between **1 September 2022 and 31 July 2023**. English is the official language of the Prize. Entries may be submitted in all EU official languages. A summary in English (500 words maximum) must be provided in the submission form. Entries may have one or several authors. Participants must be the authors and holders of the copyright and the moral rights to their work. Applications may be submitted by authors themselves or by professional media organisations and associations on their behalf. Should a journalist or team of journalists wish to participate with more than one entry, they are allowed to do so. However, they must submit a separate application per entry. Plagiarism, which includes the unauthorised use of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own, will result in disqualification. Retrospective discovery of plagiarism will result in revocation of the awarded Prize. Evaluation will be based on the following criteria: relevance of the topic for European society and contribution to the promotion of EU values and principles; quality of content, which should be well documented, accurate, factual, and based on a variety of sources; quality in terms of language, style, and structure; original and in-depth approach to the topic. There will be one single winner, who will receive €20,000. The jury reserves the right not to award the Prize in case the aforementioned quality criteria are not met. The winner will be invited to participate in the Award Ceremony of the Prize. The European Parliament will cover the winner's travel costs. The Jury will be composed of at least 27 recognised personalities in the fields of media, journalism and civil society. The Jury, deciding by simple majority, will determine the winning entry. Each Jury member may vote for one single entry. The decision of the Jury shall be final and irrevocable. The winner will be announced at the Award Ceremony to be held in the European Parliament. Applications must be submitted via our [online platform](#) by **31 July 2023, 12 AM (CEST)**.

12. The James Dyson Award 2023

Sponsored by the James Dyson Foundation, the non-profit organisation founded by James Dyson with the aim of motivating future generations of designers to be creative, challenge themselves and invent, the James Dyson Prize is an international design competition that celebrates, encourages and inspires the next generation of inventors. It is open to students and graduates in engineering, product design and industrial design from all over the world who want to develop a product or an idea that solves a problem with an effective and well-thought-out solution. The requirements to participate are as follows: be a student (or a graduate of no more than four years) of a degree course in product design, industrial design or engineering; no matter where you come from. However, all participants must have studied in one of the following countries and regions: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines, France, Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Thailand, Taiwan, Turkey and the USA. Entries must be submitted in the form of a project uploaded on the Award website, which must include sketches and images of models and prototypes showing the research and development process being pursued. In addition, a project description of a maximum of 200 words must be submitted, both in the mother tongue and in English, emphasising the purpose and function. Applicants may submit as many projects as they wish. The following prizes will be awarded to the winners: National Winners €5,700; International Finalists €5,700; Best Sustainability-related Project Winner €34,000; International Winner €34,000. In addition to winning a significant cash prize, you will have the opportunity to receive media exposure to launch your career. To be able to upload your materials, you must first need to register at: www.jamesdysonaward.org. **Deadline: 19 July 2023, 23.59 CET.**



13. Internship opportunities in the digital sector

The initiative, funded by the Horizon 2020 programme and implemented through the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme, will enable participants to gain valuable work experience through internships in companies abroad. These cross-border internships will be made available to students of all disciplines eager to develop digital skills. Participation in Digital Opportunity Traineeships is open to: students of all disciplines, who can apply through their university; recent graduates within 12 months of graduation (provided they have applied before graduation). Through the initiative, students will receive an average allowance of €500 per month for 2-12 months (the exact amount will depend on the home and host countries), in line with Erasmus+ rules and procedures. Check available places on the Erasmus Intern website. The earliest deadline for placements in different sectors is **29 July 2023**. More information can be found at the following [link](#).



14. Internships at the World Intellectual Property Organisation

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) is one of the specialised agencies of the United Nations, created to encourage creative activity and promote the protection of intellectual property around the world. WIPO's Internship Programme offers internships of between 3 and 12 months (maximum 6 months for undergraduate and graduate students) in Geneva or in one of the agency's external offices. Internship of 3 to 6 months: these are intended for first-level university students and recent graduates who have been studying for no more than two years or second-level university students who are still enrolled at university and have examinations to complete.

Internship of 3 to 12 months: these are intended for second-level university students who only have to discuss their dissertation, recent graduates who have been awarded a second-level degree for no more than two years, graduates who have been awarded a second-level degree for more than two years but are enrolled in a postgraduate course of study. Requirements: to be a university graduate or to have obtained a postgraduate degree (those about to obtain a degree are also eligible); an excellent command of English is essential; knowledge of at least one of the following foreign languages will be considered preferential: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Good computer and analytical skills: Word, Excel, PowerPoint. For internships in Geneva, the amount of the salary is as follows: internships of 3 to 6 months monthly remuneration of 1,570 Swiss francs; internships of 3 to 12 months monthly remuneration of 2,070 Swiss francs. **Deadline: 1 July 2023.** For further information, please consult the following [link](#).



15. Last meeting in Macedonia and conclusion of the “LearnEU” project

On April 19th took place in Kumanovo (North Macedonia) the last transnational meeting within the project “Learn Europe is a game for young people” (acronym: LearnEU). The initiative has been approved for the EURO-NET association as action number 2020-1-IT02-KA201-079054 by the Italian National Agency Erasmus Plus “INDIRE” within the Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnerships for School Education. The project has involved the partnership consisting of EURO-NET, Damasistem (Turkey), Mpirmpakos D. & Sia O.E. (Greece), CCS Digital Education Limited (Ireland), AIJU (Spain), Ipias Giorgi (Italy), Sredno opstinsko uciliste Pero Nakov (Macedonia), Colegiul Economic “Ion Ghica” Braila (Romania) and Agrupamento de Escolas de Penalva do Castelo (Portugal). During the meeting in Macedonia, partners have presented the activities developed in their countries and the extraordinary results in terms of involvement and impact. The project, after 32 months of activities, ended on April 30th, and has achieved all the desired goals and has even far surpassed many of them reaching the extreme satisfaction of the entire partnership, which has developed an education curriculum focused on the use of gamification to teach European notions and values. The results achieved by the partnership are truly remarkable, as all the parameters that were promised in the project planning phase (as indicators of the quality of the work to be done) were far exceeded: more than 1,043 students involved (foreseen: 1000), about 1,291 likes on Facebook and 2399 followers (foreseen: 1200), about 11. 000 website views (foreseen: 10.000), multiplier events involving nearly 523 people (foreseen: 300), 7 intellectual products - including 5 digital games, a 2D interactive animation and a guide for trainers -, 5 project's newsletters - each one translated into 8 languages -, an official website in 8 languages (<https://project-learn.eu/>), 1 project brochure translated into 8 languages, interviews, 7 work plans in English (dissemination and communication, monitoring, management, quality, risks, strategy, sustainability, chroprogram), 2 TV reports, 3 radio reports, 24 articles in newspapers, magazines and periodical publications in the various countries (19 in Italy, 1 in Macedonia, 1 in Portugal, 1 in Turkey), more than 50 articles published on the organizations' newsletters (in Italian, English, Spanish and Portuguese), 11 web pages on partners' websites (foreseen: 9); 11 posters (foreseen: 9), 9 5-year agreements for the sustainability of the project, 9 monitoring reports (developed after each



TP, LTTA and JSTE), 2 evaluating reports (interim and final), over 400 dissemination events (arising interest from more than 20 external stakeholders who have decided to implement the intellectual products of the project in their organizations to work with young people, students, trainers and teachers. In addition to that, the project, despite the pandemic, has organized, accordingly to the initial plan, 6

transnational meetings (4 online meetings and 2 in presence meetings), 2 LTTA in presence activities for the students in Portugal and Romania, 1 JSTE in presence activity for the staff members in Italy. All the project partners, and primarily the coordinator EURO-NET, are extremely satisfied of the results. *“We are extremely satisfied and proud of the work we have carried out – has stated Anna Lagrotta, the EURO-NET’s President – and we would like to thank all those who have dedicated themselves with passion and spirit of initiative to the development of this wonderful project, which although having being carried out in the period of pandemic, has achieved and exceeded all the goals initially set. This is the sign that all partners have worked with extreme dedication and commitment to its implementation. We now hope that the National Agency Indire, in its evaluation of the final Report will be able to profitably assess our efforts and, perhaps, award us a prize for our activities.”* More information on the project can be found on the website <https://project-learn.eu/> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Learneu-117725843430250/>.

16. Meeting in Potenza of the “CREATIVENTER” project

On April 21st took place in Potenza the second in presence meeting of the project “Creativity skills for young social entrepreneurs for development in the VUCA world” (acronym “CREATIVENTER”). The initiative has been approved in Poland by the National Agency as action number 2021-1-PL01-KA220-YOU-000029767 within the Erasmus Plus Program Cooperative Partnerships in Youth. The meeting, hosted by the EURO-NET Association (Europe Direct Basilicata Center), was focused on assessing the state of art of the activities and on defining the necessary work to complete the intellectual products foreseen by the project (an e-learning course, a toolkit to develop creative competences, and a chatbot – a software which simulates and elaborates written or spoken conversations – with a digital assistant to support the creativity of those who would like to develop a social cooperative).



17. Multiplier event of the “ECHO PLAY” project

On April 18th the EURO-NET association has organized a multiplier event to promote the project “European Career Help and Occupational Orientation Play” (acronym “ECHO 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 the field of VET. During the event, open to the audience, attended by 120 participants (more than the 70 foreseen by the project), Dr. Peppino Franco has explained to the audience the results achieved by the project, the development of all the activities and the intellectual products being developed. In addition to EURO-NET, the partnership is composed by Midstod Simenntunar A Sudurnesjum (Iceland – project coordinator), Studiodomino SRL (Italy), Turun Yliopisto (Finland) and Kelje Production (France). The debate has then focused on the creation of the board game on employability (developed within the project). The game has been developed by the partnership of the project during the 28 months of activities, it employs innovative learning dynamics (as a result of a research on the “serious” use of LEGO® bricks) and it aims at improving the approach to work. For this reason, the dissemination event was also aimed at finding teachers, trainers and stakeholders interested in adopting the game within their organizations in order to use it as a creative tool in the vocational education system for the placement of people in the labor market and as a stimulus to boost motivation. More information on the “ECHO PLAY” project can be found on the website <https://www.echooplay.eu/> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Echoo-Play-project-102639605153401>.



18. Selections for the VET project by EURO-NET

In May the selections for the annual VET abroad have been held in Potenza, within the project won by the consortium coordinated by the Potenza-base organization EURO-NET. In addition to EURO-NET, the other members of the consortium are some high schools of Potenza (High School of Arts W. Gropius, III Einstein-De Lorenzo, IPIAS Giorgi, High School Rosa-Gianturco, IPASR G. Fortunato), Confindustria Basilicata and the Chamber of Commerce of Basilicata. The project has been approved within the Erasmus Plus Program (upon multi-year accreditation n. 2021-1-IT01-KA120-VET-000044274) as action number 2022-1-IT01-KA121-VET-000055185. Thanks to the VET project, around 45 young students attending the 3rd and the 4th years at high school will be able to take part in a work experience abroad lasting 32 days, whereas 8 young high school for 93 days. The project also foresees training and vocational courses abroad for the organizations' staff.



19. First meeting in Konya for the “LearnSTEM” project

On April 25th and 26th took place in Konya, in Turkey, the first in presence meeting of the project "Innovative Model of learning STEM in secondary schools" (acronym "Learn STEM"). The initiative has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Turkey as action number 2022-1-TR01-KA220-SCH-000087583. The project aims at strengthening the capacity of secondary schools to develop skills in subjects such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics through innovative and interactive pedagogical methods and approaches, and, to this end, the project will provide schools with a pedagogical model and educational tools to support students to connect with STEM applications, in particular those related to the Internet of Things (IoT). During the meeting, the partners - Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi (Turkey), Ingenious Knowledge GmbH (Germany), Universität Paderborn (Germany), IEK Kavallas (Greece), Colegiul Tehnic "Haralamb Vasiliu" (Romania), Ahi Evran Anadolu Lisesi (Turkey), Yusuf Demir Bilim Ve Sanat Merkezi (Turkey) and EURO-NET (Italy) – have planned all the actions and activities before the end of the project (December 2024) and the intellectual products to be realized, which are a pedagogical model, an educational program for teachers, and an online e-learning platform. More information on the project can be found at the following link: www.learnstem.eu.



20. LTTA in Italy and last transnational activity of the “MATTERS” project

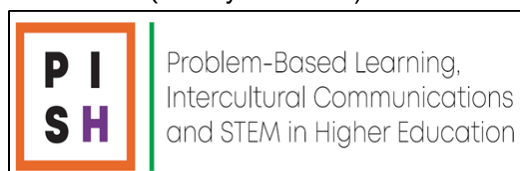
On May 5th to May 7th took place in Potenza a training for students and teachers within the project "The Education of Human Rights and Democracy MATTERS" (acronym "MATTERS"), which was attended for the Italian partner EURO-NET by the students of the High School of Arts "W. Gropius" of Potenza, and also by the partner delegations from Agrupamento de Escolas do Forte da Casa (Portugal) and Ardesen Sehiti Omer Halisdemir Fen Lisesi (Turkey). The activities have been planned by the partnership, and moments of leisure, culture and visits to the territory have been included. The MATTERS project, approved as action number 2021-2-PT01-KA210-SCH-000048689 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA210-SCH- Small Scale Partnerships in School Education, aims at strengthening the importance of education of students, teachers, parents, civil society in



promoting human rights and democratic reforms; fostering participation in democratic life through social and civic engagement; improving teachers' and students' linguistic skills and competencies; protecting and developing EU values, diversity of cultures and traditions; integrating students into the European society as active participants and potential future decision makers; promoting cooperation among young people from different European countries. The intellectual innovative projects foreseen by the projects are an online book, a library-video and a website. On June 9th took place the last transnational formative activity within the project. The event was about an online training attended by both students and teachers of the High School Gropius of Potenza (Italy), the Agrupamento de Escolas do Forte da Casa (Portugal) and Ardesen Sehit Omer Halisdemir Fen Lisesi (Turkey). The activities of this virtual mobility called "Open minded people know their rights" have been dedicated to promoting knowledge of people's rights by facilitating the development of an open and inclusive mindset. The "MATTERS" project will conclude on September 1st, 2023, but it has already achieved many of its objectives and has raised awareness among school students about the human rights and the democratic principles on which society must be based.

21. Meeting in Finland for the "PISH" project

On April 27th and 28th took place in Finland, partially in presence and also online, a new meeting within the project "Problem-Based Learning, Intercultural Communications and STEM in Higher Education" (acronym "PISH"). The initiative has been approved by the Danish Erasmus Plus National Agency as action number 2020-1-DK01-KA203-075109 and is aimed at meeting the intercultural communication needs in the peer-to-peer learning environments of STEM students in Institutes of Higher Education. The transnational meeting has been useful to assess the state of art



of the intellectual products already developed, to plan the activities related to the platform and the videos, and, finally, to verify the dissemination, evaluation and monitoring activities. The European partnership working on this project 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 can be found on the website <https://www.pishproject.eu/> or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PISHproject/>.

22. Interim Report for the "Digi4You" project

In Mid-May the partnership of the project "Digital skills development toolkit for young NEETS to increase employability" (acronym "Digi4you") – initiative approved in Turkey by its National Agency within the Erasmus Plus Program Cooperative Partnerships for Youth as action number 2021-2-TR01-KA220-YOU-000047996 – has presented to the Turkish National Agency the interim report of the activities completed till April 30th for the evaluation. The Outcome 1 relating the "Digital Skills Training Framework" (completed in October 2022) and the Outcome 2 relating the "Digital Skills Training Toolkit" (completed on the 28th of February 2023) have been fully completed according to the work plan. Moreover, in March 2023 the work on the Outcome 3 relating the "Guidebook for Youth Trainers to improve digital soft skills of youth" has started. Overall, all the partners are extremely satisfied with the work being completed and with the quality of the products developed, and they expect to continue working in this direction for the remaining outputs to be completed and developed. More information on the project can be found on the website <https://www.digi4you.eu/> and on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/digi4youproject>.



23. Event on the European Year of Skills



On May 11th the EURO-NET Association (Europe Direct Basilicata Center) and the CDE of Potenza (European Documentation Center) have held an event at the High School of Science of Potenza regarding the European Year of Skills and the tools schools can use to teach about Europe. The event has been held by the speakers Antonino Imbesi, director of the Europe Direct Basilicata Center, and Assunta Art, responsible for the CDE. A video produced by the EURO-NET association and describing the key objectives of the European Year of Skills (which officially started on May 9th, Europe Day, and will end on May 2024) was shown during the event.

24. Meeting in Cracow and multiplier event for “GREEN ROUTES”

On May 22nd and 23rd took place in Cracow, in Poland, a new transnational meeting of the project “Green Routes - Learning about sustainable trends in European cities”. The initiative has been approved in Germany as action number 2020-1-DE02-KA204-007652 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA2 Strategic Partnership in Adult Education. The meeting has been attended by all partners in presence and has been useful to assess the quality of the intellectual products developed, to plan the final multiplier events to promote the outputs to the audience, and, finally, to discuss about the final report to present to the German National Agency for the evaluation. The “Green Routes” project has been developed since its beginning in September 2020 a toolkit to promote sustainable solutions in urban areas through the creation of three intellectual products and the application of a training methodology for developing “green” scenarios for both real and virtual augmented reality educational paths on sustainability-related topics. The scenarios created can be used by educators to follow up green tours and are also available in a printed guidebook, whereas the virtual tours can be experienced through an augmented reality app which also interacts with the guidebook. The partnerships working on the project involves Comparative Research Network (Germany – project coordinator), EURO-NET (Italy), Interacting UK Limited (UK), Panepistimio Thessalias (Greece), Euro-Idea Fundacja Społeczno-Kulturalna (Poland) and Izmir Katip Celebi Universitesi (Turkey). In June took place in Italy the multiplier event in order to promote to the audience all the activities and products developed within the project. More information on the project can be found on the website <http://greenroutes.eu/> and on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GreenRoutes-108204151034392>.



25. “IP4J” project: multiplier event in Potenza and last meeting



At the end of May, the EURO-NET association has held in Potenza the Italian multiplier event within the project “Innovative and Practical training for low-skilled and migrants Jobs” (acronym “IP4J”). The initiative has been approved as action number 2020-1-DE02-KA202-007465 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany within the strategic partnerships for vocational education. The event has been open to the wide audience and has been attended by over 90 people (students and teachers). During the event, Dr. Andrea D’Andrea has presented the results achieved within the project, the activities carried out, the intellectual products being implemented. The last project meeting was held in Potenza and has been intended to present the final state of the products developed by the partnership (including the

interactive APP to access all the project's materials) and to present the results achieved through the multiplier events to promote the project in the various countries. The partnership working on the project consists of: FA-Magdeburg GmbH (Germany – project coordinator), EURO-NET (Italy), SC Rogepa SRL (Romania), Inercia Digital SL (Spain) and Midstod Simenntunar A Sudurnesjum (Iceland). More information on the project can be found on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ip4j.eu> and on the website www.ip4j.eu/.

26. “IntCult AE” project

On May 30th took place the second transnational meeting within the project "Intercultural Competence Development for Adult Education" (acronym "IntCult AE") at the Europe Direct Basilicata Center in Potenza. The initiative has been approved by the Polish National Agency within the Erasmus+ Program KA220-ADU – Cooperation Partnerships in Adult Education, as action number 2022-1-PL01-KA220-ADU-000087417. During the meeting, all the partners - Uniwersytet Łódzki (Poland – project coordinator), Ekpaideftiria Kaloskami S.A. (Greece), Aidlearn, Consultoria em Recursos Humanos Lda (Portugal), Erasmus ME Academy gGmbH (Germany) and EURO-NET (Italy) – have assessed the state of development of the activities already developed and have defined the next implementation steps. The “IntCult AE” project (it started in November 2022, and will be over by February 2025) aims at improving the intercultural competences of adult educators through an innovative online course, a multimedia catalogue and guides for workshops for those who want to develop their own courses using the outputs provided by the project. The project also aims at developing cross-cultural skills, enhancing the ability to move across complex environments, enabling adult educators to learn more effectively, and, finally, strengthening adult educators' role in inspiring, instructing and advising students.



27. “Podcast para um Futuro sem Fronteiras”: first meeting in Portugal

On June 1st took place in vila Nova de Gaia, close to Porto, in Portugal, the first transnational meeting of the project “Podcast para um Futuro sem Fronteiras” (acronym “PFWB”). The initiative has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Portugal as action number 2022-2-PT01-KA210-VET-000097749 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA210-VET – Small-scale Partnerships in Vocational Education and Training. The meeting, attended by the partners D. Sancho Ensino, Lda. Escola Profissional do Infante (Portugal – project coordinator), Innovation Footprint (Greece) and EURO-NET (Italy), has been intended to define the activities to developed by May 1st, 2025. The project aims to improve the employability of students (specifically those



with fewer opportunities) through non-formal education; promote the intelligent use of technologies and develop a digital mindset (critical thinking and use of new technological tools); raising awareness of actual themes such as Europe, digital transition, environmental issues, employment and soft skills; acquiring technical skills (expressiveness, active listening, intercultural dialogue, public speaking, podcast production and streaming, audio and video editing) in order to develop skills to be employable in the radio or publishing sectors or start a business; acquiring soft skills (adaptability, resilience, critical thinking); broadening trainers and educators' teaching methodologies. The project's objectives are related to the consideration that global crises and uncertainties, together with rapid changes in the labor market, are likely to spread anxiety, fear, frustration, disengagement, and anger in young people, also because problems are mostly portrayed in a negative way and there is no encouragement to rather focus on the opportunities that arise from changes. The project will involve 90 trainees so that by actively participating in all the project's activities they can grow both

from a personal but also a professional perspective, and they can develop and acquire new soft skills through podcast creation. Furthermore, the project is also addressed to those trainers who are interested in adopting this new non-formal education methodology within their organizations thanks to a video guide and an e-learning online platform containing all the project's materials and products.

28. Training in Copenhagen for the “Food for Change” project

On June 14th and June 15th took place in Copenhagen, in Denmark, a training within the project “Food for Change” (acronym “FCC”). 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. The training has been attended for the EURO-NET association by two delegates – Dr. Veronica Summa and Dr. Maria Schirone. The partners - Crossing Borders (Denmark), Kainotomia & Sia Ee (Greece), EURO-NET (Italy), Associação Novo Mundo Azul (Portugal), Asociacija "Aktyvus jaunimas"(Lithuania) and Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany) – will be engaged in activities related to the development of the Work Package 3, which aims at achieving three goals: providing youth workers in each organization with the necessary skills to implement the dialogue dinners in order to foster intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and youth empowerment; involve and teach young people how to become active global citizens; create a guide for trainers in order to provide information on how to implement the dialogue dinners and create interlocutive spaces. The project aims at engaging and empowering young people to build a sense of community and civic engagement in the fields of education, training and youth work, especially after the pandemic, by using food as a means for dialogue and intercultural connection between people with different backgrounds in terms of race, gender and socio-economic conditions. The project therefore aims promoting the values of tolerance, inclusion and respect for gender diversity in order to prevent radicalization, racism and discrimination among young people.



29. Explore Europe: multiplier event, workshops, meetings, newsletter

On April 18th took place at the High School Gropius in Potenza the Italian multiplier event within the project “Explore Europe” attended by 120 students and teachers. The project has been approved to the Youth Europe Service association 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 partners of the project are Youth Europe Service (Italy), Damasistem (Turkey) and S.C. Predict CSD Consulting S.R.L. (Romania) During the event, the staff members of the Potenza-based association have presented all the activities carried out within the European initiative and all the intellectual products realized and have invited all the participants to use their phones to play and test the games of the project. During the event, participants have been able to watch the interactive 2D cartoon, about 15 minutes long, “My Story is Europe” (in the three partners’ languages and in English), with which historical knowledge about the EU was tested. Furthermore, the two games developed within the projects have been extremely appreciated: “Let’s learn Europe” (an e-game to test one’s European geographical, cultural and institutional knowledge) and “My Parliament” (a 3D simulation on how the European Parliament works). The latter has been extremely appreciated by the participants, who, after



having registered on the website of the project www.exploreeurope.eu (it is a requirement to access the games), have become MEPs, have presented their motions and have got them approved by the virtual assembly. Overall, Youth Europe Service has made over 800 people from 26 countries, both European (Italy, Portugal, Romania, Greece, Cyprus, Spain, The Netherlands, Austria, Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Malta, Hungary and Finland) but also non-European (Turkey, UK, India, USA, Afghanistan, Ukraine and North Macedonia) register on the website (vs. 300 planned as a project partner). On April 25th and 26th took place in presence in Ankara, in Turkey, a new meeting within the “Explore Europe” project hosted by the partner Damasistem, although some of the staff members from Italy and Romania (Predict) have joined the meeting online. During the meeting, the partners have talked about the state of art of the workshops with young people and have also discussed about the multiplier events held in Italy and Turkey. The project is a candidate for a possible good practice award since it has far surpassed all the set goals. On May 5th and 6th took place one of the last meetings within the “Explore Europe” project in Arad (Romania) hosted by the partner Predict SC. The meeting has been intended to assess the registrations in each country and per partner and the development of



workshops, to gather news on the multiplier event in Romania, to carry out activities of monitoring and evaluation, to plan dissemination activities. Throughout May, partners have held in Italy, Turkey and Romania the last workshops foreseen by the project in order to present to young people, students, youth workers, trainers and teacher the three intellectual products developed within the project. On social media, the project has reached great results: the Facebook page has over 2100 likes and over 3200 followers (vs the 900 planned by the project). In addition to that, the 4th newsletter about the project has been published in 4 languages (English, Italian, Romanian and Turkish). On May 24th and 25th took place in Potenza the last meeting within the “Explore Europe” project. The meeting has been intended to present the final results of the activities carried out. “The partnership composed by Youth Europe Service (Italy), Damasistem (Turkey) and S.C. Predict CSD

Consulting S.R.L. (Romania) is extremely satisfied with the results achieved – has stated the President of the YES association, Dr. Maria Domenica de Rosa – and the products developed exceeded the expectations and have been appreciated in over thirty countries around the world. We could not even imagine that the project would have been so successful, although we were sure that our work, our commitment and our professionalism would have allowed us to impress the National Agency for Youth. What we have achieved is truly extraordinary and, therefore, we hope we can apply for a good practice award.” More information can be also found on the Facebook page of the project www.facebook.com/Explore-Europe-104476754982850/.

30. Two multiplier events for the “INTERACT” project

On April 20th and 21th the staff of the Youth Europe Service association based in Potenza has held two multiplier events to promote the activities and the products of the project “Innovative Cultural Heritage the Root of European Identity” (acronym “INTERACT”). The initiative has been approved by the English National Agency as action number 2020-1-UK01-KA204-078950 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA2 – Strategic Partnerships in the field of Adult Education. The events have been attended by a total of 106 participants, both Italians (83) and foreigners (23), all extremely enthusiast about the innovative products developed within the INTERACT project, which has greatly engaged the association's technicians in the technological development needed to complete the intellectual outputs. The European project, which will end at the end of July (after an extension of 4 months because of problems related to the Covid pandemic), has been developed by a partnership consisting of: Find an Internship (UK), Youth Europe Service (Italy), S.C Predict CSD (Romania), Interacting S.L (Spain) and Logos Polska (Poland). More information can be found on the website <https://interactproject.eu/> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Erasmus-Plus-Interact-100911398721786>.



31. Multiplier event in Italy and last meeting in Spain for the DVAE project

On April 18th the GODESK Society has organized a multiplier event within the project "Digital Voyage Around Europe" (acronym DVAE). The initiative has been approved in Spain by the



Erasmus Plus National Agency as action number 2020-1-ES01-KA204-082259 within the Program KA2 Strategic Partnerships in the field of adult education. The dissemination event to the audience has been attended by many participants, 108 to be precise, which is a clear demonstration of the considerable interest, especially among young people, in new technologies such as the augmented reality and the virtual reality. During the event, the GODESK staff has presented the project, its activities and the implemented intellectual products. The last transnational meeting of the project was held in Oiartzun, in Spain, on April 28th and 29th. The meeting has been attended by the staff of the organizations working on the initiative - Association de Cooperation al Desarrollo Abarka (Spain), Asociacion de Investigacion de la Industria del Juguete Conexas Y Afines (Spain), Kapadokya Egitim ve Arastirma Dernegi (Turkey), Namoi (Russia), SC Psihoforworld (Romania), Skills Zone Malta Co. Limited (Malta), Alliance for Global Development (Luxembourg) and Godesk SRL (Italy) – both online and in presence. During the

meeting, partners have discussed about the results achieved during the project's development, about the Final Report and also about the documentation to present to the Spanish National Agency for the evaluation. The "DVAE" project is aimed at introducing and using both in education and in everyday life the new digital tools that technology makes available nowadays. More information can be found on the Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Digital-Voyage-Around-Europe-102972418345600> or on the website <https://dvaeproject.eu/>.

32. Online meeting of the "EI4Future" project

On April 26th was held online a meeting of the partners working on the project "Emotional Intelligence for Emotional Resilience" (acronym "EI4Future"). The initiative has been approved within the KA220-ADU actions by the Spanish Erasmus Plus National Agency as action number 2021-1-ES01-KA220-ADU-000026157. The meeting has been addressed at assessing the development of the e-learning platform by the Italian partner of the project – GODESK SRL - and at assessing the development of the formative modules which will be implemented by 2D animations on the platform. The partnership - composed by Indepcie SCA (Spain – project coordinator), Instituto Ikigai (Spain), Center for Education and Innovation (Greece), Vienna Association of Education Volunteers (Austria), Avrasya Yenilikçi Toplum Derneği/Eurasia (Turkey) and Godesk SRL (Italy) – aims at promoting the importance of emotional intelligence in the daily life, both in the personal and professional perspectives, and at supporting adults with minor opportunities (belonging to social disadvantages contexts, such as unemployed, immigrants, refugees, disables, etc.) to develop competences to manage their emotions and to become more emotionally resilient. On June 8th and 9th took place in Bursa, in Turkey, another transnational meeting, attended online by GODESK SRL. The meeting has been aimed at assessing the activities already completed and at discussing the development of the Output 2 -coordinated by the Italian partner -, which is a "MOOC" (Massive Open Online Course), namely an e-learning platform. More information can be found on the website <http://www.ei4future.eu/> or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EI4Future>.

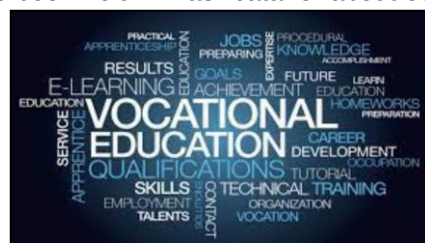


33. Multiplier event in Potenza for the “SPEAK” project

On May 5th the Association Youth Europe Service has held in Potenza a multiplier event on the project "Speaking skill Performance Enhancement in entrepreneurial customs for social workers" (acronym “SPEAK”). The initiative has been approved in Sweden by the Erasmus Plus National Agency as action number 2020-1-SE01-KA204-077885. The event has been attended by more than 90 participants (more than the 40 participants foreseen by the project) and Dr. Luca Caggiano together with other members of the Potenza-based association have explained to the audience the results and the intellectual products developed by the project, have shown the 2D animations and the guides, and have invited all the participants to follow the learning activities on the e-learning platform developed by the European partnership. More information on the project can be found on the website <https://www.speakproject.eu> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SPEAK-103210721662026/>.

34. Selections for the VET project by YOUTH EUROPE SERVICE

In May the selections for the annual VET project abroad have been held in Basilicata for about 53 recipients of professional internship grants abroad. These students, thanks to the contribution from the European Commission (granted under the Erasmus Plus project number 2022-1-IT01-KA121-VET-000081039) will be able to take part in an internship experience in either Ireland or Germany for a period lasting between 32 and 93 days (depending on the year attended at school). The Erasmus Plus Vet (acronym of Vocational Education and Training) is a vocational training program for young high school students and high school graduates; it enables young people to improve their skills and competencies through an internship abroad that fosters innovative learning practices, collaborations between countries, exchange of experiences between young people and professionals. Furthermore, young participants will be able to learn about and experience Europe and this will foster the development of a diverse European identity.



35. Second meeting of the “Games4Green” project in Potenza

On May 29th took place in Potenza, at the Chamber of Commerce of Basilicata, the second meeting of the project “Learning serious video game coding for green awareness” (acronym “Games4Green”) whose Italian partners are the Chamber of Commerce of Basilicata and the association Youth Europe Service. The project has been approved in Germany as action number 2022-1-DE02-KA220-VET-000085499 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-VET – Cooperation Partnerships for Vocational Education. The initiative started on December 31st, 2022, and will conclude at the end of 2024. The project aims at improving young people’s employability, at increasing the number of professionals (especially women) in the field of serious e-games dealing with social issues such as environmental issues. More specifically, e-games are a powerful tool to raise awareness on social issues, such as climate change and environment, and, for this reason, Games4Green aims at raising citizens’ awareness to tackle these issues. Games4Green proposes that local institutions should be the ones to promote the use of e-games



in order to foster citizens' engagement and improving actions regarding social issues. This project will be also useful to promote the VET sector and will provide new powerful tools to be applied in various areas of vocational training. The partnership working on the development of this project includes, apart from the two organizations before mentioned, also Erasmus ME Academy gGmbH (Germany – project coordinator), InnoVED (Greece), Associació Educativa i Cultural Blue Beehive (Spain) and Rigas Tehniska Universitate (Latvia). More information on the project will be soon available on the official website and social media channels.

36. Meeting of the “Equal SciTech” project in Porto

On May 31st took place in Águas Santas, close to Porto, in Portugal, the first transnational meeting of the project “EQUAL SciTech: promoting gender equality in Science and Technology” (acronym “EQUAL SciTech”). The initiative has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Portugal as action number 2022-1-PT01-KA220-SCH-000088149 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-SCH – Cooperation Partnerships in School Education. During the meeting, partners have got to know each other and have established the activities to be implemented according to the project, which will last till March 31st, 2025. The partnership working on this project includes Agrupamento de Escolas de águas Santas (Portugal – project coordinator), Geoclube – Associação Juvenil de Ciência, Natureza e Aventura (Portugal), I.I.S. “G. Fortunato” di Rionero in Vulture (Italy), Youth Europe Service (Italy), Erasmus ME Academy gGmbH (Germany) and Sredno opstinsko uciliste Sou Pero Nakov (North Macedonia). The Equal SciTech project aims at improving the interest, engagement and achievements of young female students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; at fighting gender stereotypes; at encouraging young female students to choose careers in STEM; at promoting non-formal education tools in teaching; at improving teachers' skills as well as their personal competencies. The project foresees the development of a digital platform, a cooperative card game, an interactive digital book (with stories about women in STEM) which will be also implemented with augmented reality tools.



37. Meeting in Potenza for the “3D4AUTO” project

On June 12th and 13th took place in Potenza, at the GODESK office, a new meeting for the project



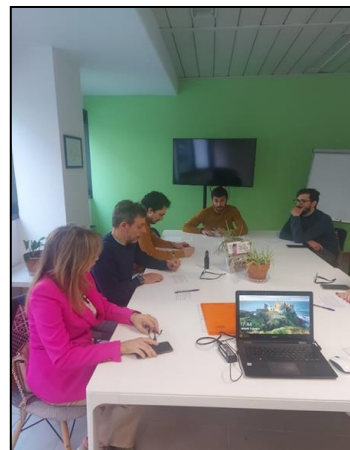
"ECVET compatible 3D printing training modules for automotive technologies" (acronym “3D4Auto”). The initiative has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Slovakia as action number 2021-1-SK01-KA220-VET-000034617 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-VET – Cooperation Partnerships in Vocational Education. During the meeting, partners have assessed the work completed so far in relation to the first two intellectual products, namely the Guide to 3D printing in automotive (containing the training modules and a curriculum for automotive technologies) and the related animated videos which make the content more usable, interactive and interesting for students. During the two-day meeting, the organizations working on this project - Stredna priemyselna skola dopravna (Slovakia-project coordinator), Higher School of Transport "Todor Kableshkov" (Bulgaria), CEPROF (Portugal), Vienna Association Of Education Volunteers (Austria), Exelia E.E. (Greece), International Association for Research and Development of

Vocational Education and Training (Turkey) and Godesk srl (Italy) –have also discussed about the three products (“Mobile Hub”, “Virtual training seminars and webinars” and “Policy recommendation report”) to be developed by December 1st, 2023. These products will be part of the project toolkit which is directed at the implementation and development of a 3D printing and

prototyping course for high schools in the field of Automotive Technology, with the intent of stimulating young students and awakening their creativity and potential. More information about the project can be found on the website <https://www.3d4auto.eu/>, which will soon host the training platform under development.

38. Training in Porto for the “VRP4Youth” project

From June 12th to June 14th (excluding travel days) the partners of the project “Innovative Integration Between Virtual Reality and Rapid Prototyping for Youth” (acronym “VRP4Youth”) have met in Portugal for a training activity organized by the Instituto Politecnico do Porto. The initiative has been 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. The meeting has been intended to assess the activities already developed and to plan the new products, including a focus group on dissemination. During the meeting, the GODESK society has presented its results regarding the Work Package 2, which included a research, an online survey to 76 participants, and a focus group on the use of new technologies (virtual reality, augmented reality, rapid prototyping) in Italy, in order to understand how to solve the existing gap in the labor market, train young people to respond to the actual mismatching and therefore increase youth employment in Europe in the long term. The partnership working on this project involves Gazi Universitesi (Turkey – project coordinator), Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan (Sweden), Association Of Academicians Union (Turkey), Instituto Politecnico Do Porto (Portugal) and Godesk Srl (Italy), and they are all working to improve young people’s skills in the field of new technologies. More information on the project and its activities can be found on the Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/people/VRP4Youth/100090467855108/> or on the website <https://vrp4youth.org/>.



39. Animations completed within the “CYBER-SAFETY” project

The animations planned for the animated cartoons within the project “Together to guarantee cyber-safety and prevent cyberbullying in schools” (acronym “CYBER-SAFETY”) have been completed. The initiative has been approved in Croatia within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-SCH as action number 2021-1-HR01-KA220-SCH-000027712. The animations have been developed by the partnership consisting of da Ivan Cankar Primary School (Croatia – project coordinator), Youth Europe Service (Italy), Colegiul National Spiru Haret (Romania), Mine Vaganti Ngo (Italy) and Van Il Milli Egitim Mudurlugu (Turkey); the animations are aimed at recognizing cyber-bullying phenomena in schools so that the risks can be prevented or solutions can be found. The CYBER-SAFETY project aims at training young people aged between 13 and 18, teachers and youth workers of NGOs to use non-formal education methodologies to tackle this problematic issue; raising awareness on cyberbullying; providing teachers with skills and competencies to prevent and fight this phenomenon. The partnership will also create and develop an app to gather information on cyberbullying, which will also be a safe space for support to victims of cyberbullying. The application will also give the opportunity to chat with a youth worker specialized in providing support. In addition to that, the app and the platform will provide a toll-free number to allow victims to get in touch with a specialist who can provide psychosocial support.

