



# EURO-NET

## The Youth European Network



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

### ***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.*

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## 1. EYE 2016: Parliament's successful youth event returns with a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

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The European Youth Event (EYE) will return next year and you could be a part of it! #EYE2016 organisers are looking for enthusiastic young people and organisations that want to help shape the event's programme. Check out the Facebook page for the latest news, including all the information about the previous edition in 2014 and its follow-up phase.

On 20-21 May 2016, the European Parliament in Strasbourg is opening its doors once again to thousands of young Europeans, who will have a unique opportunity to meet and discuss with European decision-makers. As the

event's motto is "Together we can make a change", participants are also encouraged to come up with their own ideas for how to improve Europe. EYE 2016 will feature hundreds of new engaging activities such as debates, hearings, workshops, digital games, all based on five new themes:

- **War and peace:** Perspectives for a peaceful planet
- **Apathy or participation:** Agenda for a vibrant democracy
- **Exclusion or access:** Crackdown on youth unemployment
- **Stagnation or innovation:** Tomorrow's world of work
- **Collapse or success:** New ways for a sustainable Europe

Participants, aged between 16 and 30, will come from all over the EU as well as from candidate states and neighbourhood countries. Registration for participation opens in October, however young people and youth organisations that want to contribute to the programme can already sign up now until 4 September.

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## 2. Parlamentarium: an interactive discovery of what the EP and the EU

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In Brussels this summer and curious about the EU? Why not pay a visit to the European Parliament's visitors centre in Brussels and get a unique insight into the work of MEPs and how it touches your daily life? Rated one of the top things to do in Brussels by travel website Tripadvisor, the award-winning centre has already welcomed more than one million visitors since opening its doors in October 2011.

The centre is open to the public free of charge seven days a week. Visitors can use interactive multimedia tools to see how laws and policy decisions are shaped by the Parliament and the other EU institutions. This can be done in any of the EU's 24 official languages, while four sign languages - namely English, French, Dutch and German - are also available. In addition Parlamentarium is also accessible for people with special needs. Until 20 November you have the possibility to visit an exhibition on family meals in Niger, Ecuador, Myanmar, Chad, Jordan and to learn more about EU food aid programmes.



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### 3. Five things you should know when travelling abroad

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We all love to travel, but do you know what to do if things go wrong? When there is an emergency, your flight gets cancelled or you lose your passport? There are EU rules in place to make travellers' lives easier. Here are a few key points to remember.

If you are in need of emergency assistance (police, fire, medical): call [112](#) – this is the free EU-wide emergency phone number which is also used in some countries outside the EU, such as Switzerland and South Africa. Don't forget your free European [health insurance card](#), which you can get from your national health insurance provider:

- it entitles foreign travellers to urgent medical aid in all 28 EU member states plus in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland;
- under the same conditions and at the same cost (which in some countries means free) as people insured in that country.

If your flight, train, bus or boat service is delayed or cancelled, you are entitled under EU rules to:

- reimbursement in case of a long delay (at least one to five hours, depending on the transport mode), cancellation or denied boarding;
- assistance (from meals to hotels) while waiting for a delayed journey or rerouting.

Learn more about your [passenger rights](#).

If you are arrested, lose your passport or need other **consular assistance** outside the EU, but your country has no diplomatic mission in that country:

- contact any other EU member state's embassy or consulate;
- you are entitled to help from them under the same conditions as their nationals.

Last but not least: no need to switch off your phone while in another EU member state because from 1 July 2014 you can talk and surf the internet at a lower cost than before. Learn more about new [roaming](#) charges. In addition on 30 June Parliament and Council reached an [informal deal](#) to ban roaming fees for making mobile phone calls, sending text messages or using the internet while in another EU country from 15 June 2017.

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### 4. Commission launches the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

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The Commission officially launched the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), the fourth [EU macro-regional strategy](#). More than 70 million citizens will reap the benefits of a closer cooperation between regions and countries in terms of research and innovation, SME support, mobility, tourism, environmental protection and energy resources management. This macro-regional strategy concerns seven countries; five Member States - Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia - and two non-EU countries - Liechtenstein and Switzerland - overall involving 48 regions. Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Cretu said: *"Alpine regions have a long lasting tradition of cooperation, with a number of networks already in place, and the ambition of this Strategy is to strengthen this existing solidarity. It is the fourth macro-regional strategy in Europe; experience shows that their success highly depends on commitment and ownership. We therefore need strong political leadership and active involvement of all regional and national partners to fully exploit the potential of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region."* The Strategy will focus on four key policy areas and could support the development of the following indicative projects:





- 1) **Economic growth and innovation** with, for example, the development of research activities on Alpine-specific products and services.
- 2) **Connectivity and mobility**, with the improvement of roads and railways and the extension of satellite access in remote areas.
- 3) **Environment and energy**, with the pooling of mutual resources to preserve the environment and promote energy efficiency in the Region.

In addition, the Commission identified the need to build a **sound and efficient governance model** for the Region. The Commission hopes to see the Strategy endorsed by the European Council later this year.

#### **Background**

A 'Macro-regional strategy' is an integrated framework which can be supported by the [European Structural and Investment Funds](#) (ESIF), among others, to address common challenges faced by Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area. They thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The European Council of 19-20 December 2013 had invited the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, to elaborate an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region by mid-2015. The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region was launched in the form of a Communication and an Action Plan. They take into account the results of the extensive online public consultation conducted between July and October 2014 as well as the conclusions of the closing high-level Stakeholder Conference in Milan on 1-2 December 2014.

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## **5. Transforming Europe's energy system**

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As part of the [Energy Union](#) strategy, the Commission presented proposals to deliver a new deal for energy consumers, to launch a redesign of the European electricity market, to update energy efficiency labelling and to revise the EU Emissions Trading System. The package is an important step towards implementing the Energy Union strategy with a forward looking climate change policy,



launched as one of the political priorities of the Juncker Commission in February 2015. The proposals give prominence to the "energy efficiency first" principle and put households and business consumers at the heart of the European energy market. EU Commission Vice-President for Energy Union **Maroš Šefčovič** said: *"In the Energy Union strategy, we committed to empowering European consumers, creating a single well-functioning energy market, putting energy efficiency first and becoming the number one in renewables. Five months after the adoption of the Energy Union strategy, this Summer Package shows our determination to decarbonise our economy and to give consumers a central role in Europe's energy transition. It marks not*

*only a new deal for consumers, but a new deal for Europe's entire energy system."* EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy **Miguel Arias Cañete** said: *"Actions speak louder than words. We take a decisive step towards enshrining the EU's target of at least 40% emissions cut by 2030 into law. My message to our global partners ahead of the Paris climate conference: the EU stands by its international commitments. And my message to investors, businesses and industry: invest in clean energy; it's here to stay and continue to grow. With these proposals, Europe is once again showing the way and leading the global transition to a low-carbon society."*

#### **A European emissions Trading System fit for the future**

The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) is Europe's flagship tool for tackling climate change and to place the EU on track towards a low-carbon economy. The proposal sends a powerful signal to the international community in the run-up to the Paris climate summit. The proposal comes at a critical time when other major players such as the G7 and China have also shown their firm determination. The Commission revised the Emissions Trading System to ensure that it remains the most efficient and cost-effective way to cut emission in the decade to come. This is the first legislative step towards implementing the EU's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% domestically by 2030. Ambitious climate action creates business opportunities and opens up new markets for innovation and the use of low-carbon technologies. The proposed more targeted

approach aims at safeguarding the international competitiveness of industry sectors that are at the greatest risk of seeing their production relocated outside the EU to less Green House Gas constrained jurisdictions as well as in pushing energy investment toward innovative and cleaner alternatives. Further, the Commission proposes that revenues from the emission trading are used by Member States to finance actions to help third countries adapting to the impacts of climate change.

#### **Energy efficiency label revision for more clarity**

Energy efficiency first is a central principle of the Energy Union strategy because it is such an effective way to cut emissions, bring savings to consumers, and reduce the EU's fossil fuel import dependency. Since its introduction twenty years ago, the success of energy labelling has encouraged the development of ever more energy efficient products. This has resulted in the current label becoming too complex. The Commission proposes returning to the original A to G energy label scale, simpler and well understood by consumers. The Commission's proposed revision of the energy labelling directive ensures coherence and continuity and makes sure the consumers are able to make more informed choices that will help them save energy and money.

#### **Empowering energy consumers**

Recognising that citizens must be at the core of the Energy Union, the Commission presents a Communication on delivering a new deal for energy consumers, based on a three-pillar strategy: 1. helping consumers save money and energy through better information; 2. giving consumers a wider choice of action when choosing their participation at energy markets and 3. maintaining the highest level of consumer protection. Consumers need to become just as well-informed and empowered as buyers and sellers on wholesale markets through clearer billing and advertising rules, trustworthy price comparison tools and by leveraging their great bargaining power through collective schemes (such as collective switching and energy cooperatives). Finally, consumers need to be free to generate and consume their own energy under fair conditions in order to save money, help the environment, and ensure security of supply.

#### **New energy market design**

The Energy Union strategy is designed to help deliver our 2030 climate and energy targets and make sure that the European Union becomes the world leader in renewable energy. Achieving these goals will require a fundamental transformation of Europe's electricity system including the redesign of the European electricity market. The Communication launches a Public Consultation on what the new electricity market design should look like in order to meet consumers' expectations, deliver real benefits from new technology, facilitate investments, notably in renewables and low carbon generation; and recognise the interdependence of European Member States when it comes to energy security. This should reap maximum benefits from cross-border competition and allow decentralised electricity generation, including for self-consumption and support the emergence of innovative energy service companies.

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## **6. How revised bank capital requirements have affected lending**

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In the wake of the financial crisis the EU, like many other jurisdictions, introduced stricter rules on capital requirements for banks. The Commission is starting a consultation on how some of those rules have worked in practice – for example, whether they have affected lending to small businesses and financing of infrastructure projects. During the legislative process leading to the adoption of the new capital requirements, the EU legislator tasked the Commission to examine these matters. **Jonathan Hill**, EU Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, will launch the consultation tonight at the UK leg of the "Investment Roadshow", promoting the EU's €315 billion Investment Plan: *"Bank funding is and will remain central to our economy; whether it is lending to small businesses, or long-term investment in infrastructure. The Capital Requirements Regulation and Directive have restored resilience, stability, and trust in the European banking sector. These are vitally important objectives which the legislation has helped to achieve—but it is right to ask whether the rules have unintended consequences. This is part of our commitment to Better Regulation, and helps us strike the best possible balance between managing risk and enabling growth."* Capital



Requirements for banks are set out in the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) and Capital Requirements Directive (CRDIV). While stronger capital requirements are needed to ensure the resilience and sustainability of the banking sector, the Regulation obliges the Commission to report on their impact on loans to people, small businesses and long-term financing in infrastructure. Questions the consultation is seeking to answer include:

- To what extent have CRR and CRDIV affected the level of capital held by banks?
- Are all the new requirements under all circumstances proportionate to the risks they were meant to address?
- What impact are the rules having on lending to smaller businesses, and to infrastructure projects?
- Could some of the rules be simplified or differentiated by risk or size, without compromising on their objectives of financial soundness and stability of banks?

The public consultation seeks the broadest possible range of views from the financial services industry and other stakeholders. All interested parties are encouraged to complete the [questionnaire](#), which will help the Commission provide its report. As a follow-up, the Commission will publish a feedback report and organise a public hearing later this year, paving the way for the Commission's final report in 2016. Future Commission actions, if any, will aim to safeguard the resilience of the banking system while taking into account the overarching objective of supporting jobs and growth in the EU. In addition to supporting the Commission in its reporting obligations, the consultation is also in line with the Commission's focus on jobs, growth and investment as set out in the President's Political Guidelines; with the [EU's Investment Plan](#), which aims to improve the environment for investment in Europe, including in particular as regards SME and infrastructure projects; and with the Commission's commitment to Better Regulation, so that EU legislation does what it is intended to do, avoiding any unnecessary burden.

#### Background

The CRR and CRD IV set out a more prudent definition of eligible capital and require higher minimum regulatory capital in all EU banks, ensuring that the capital that banks need to hold adequately reflects the risks they take. In addition, supervisors and macro prudential authorities may apply additional prudential requirements to institutions within their supervisory scope. The CRR also introduces a so-called 'SME supporting factor' which reduces the amount of capital required for SME loans relative to other loan categories—facilitating lending to SMEs, given the important role these companies play in the European economy. The consultation aims to gather views and evidence in the light of the following reporting requirements for the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council set out in the CRR:

- Article 505 requires a report on the appropriateness of the CRR requirements in light of the need to ensure adequate levels of funding for all forms of long-term financing for the economy, including critical infrastructure projects;
- Article 516 requires a report on the impact of the CRR on the encouragement of long-term investments in growth-promoting infrastructure;
- Article 501 requires a report on the impact of the CRR own funds requirements on lending to SMEs and natural persons.

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## 7. The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund

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During 2013-14, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) helped a total of 27 610 workers, who had been dismissed due to the economic crisis and the effects of globalisation, to find new job opportunities. A [report](#) shows that, during this period, the EGF provided more than €114.4 million to assist workers in 13 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Spain) in their transition and towards new job opportunities. The EGF funding was matched by another €94.1 million from national resources.

European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility Marianne Thyssen said: "During times when public resources are limited, the EGF has been



*providing welcome support to workers made redundant in mass lay-offs caused by globalisation or the crisis. Through personalised and targeted assistance we have supported the transition of some of the most vulnerable workers into new jobs, leading to an encouraging re-employment rate of almost 50%".* The EGF report gives an overview of applications for support measures made in 2013-2014 and also includes results from a number of cases for which final reports were received in 2013-2014. It shows that half the workers (7,656 out of 15,245) who participated in the EGF measures found new jobs or became self-employed. An additional 667 people were at that time in education or training to increase their future employability. Member States reported that the personal situation, employability and self-confidence of the workers concerned had visibly improved thanks to the EGF assistance and services. The results in terms of re-integration into employment are encouraging, given the difficult labour market situation in most Member States, and considering that the EGF supports workers in particularly difficult circumstances. Many measures concern mass lay-offs in a specific territory, often already suffering from high unemployment rates. It is also to be noted that the supported workers are often low-skilled or had other disadvantages as jobseekers.

### **Background**

More open trade with the rest of the world leads to overall benefits for growth and employment, but it can also cost jobs, particularly in vulnerable sectors and among lower-skilled workers. This is why the Commission first proposed to set up a fund to help those adjusting to the consequences of globalisation. Since starting operations in 2007, the EGF has received 136 applications. Some €550 million have been paid out to help 128,331 workers. The EGF provides funding for concrete measures to help dismissed workers improve their employability and find new job opportunities. An advantage of the EGF is that it can be used to finance measures tailored to the specific circumstances of each worker concerned. Such measures include:

- intensive, personalised job-search assistance;
- various types of vocational training, up-skilling and retraining measures;
- temporary incentives and allowances for the duration of the active measures;
- support for business start-up;
- mentoring throughout the process.

The [Fund continues during the 2014-2020 period](#) as an expression of EU solidarity, with further improvements to its functioning. Its broadened scope for this period includes workers made redundant because of the economic crisis, as well as fixed-term workers, the self-employed. It also includes, by way of derogation until the end of 2017, young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) residing in regions eligible under the [Youth Employment Initiative](#) (YEI), up to a number equal to the redundant workers supported. The EGF enables Member States to act more intensively in the areas affected by redundancies, in terms of the number of people assisted and the scope, duration and quality of support than would have been possible without EGF funding. With the help of the EU funds, they can respond more flexibly and include in their plans highly personalised actions, thus being able to devote more care to specific population groups (e.g. people aged over 50, people with migrant backgrounds, with handicaps or with only basic education and skills).

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## **8. European Fund for Strategic Investments ready for take-off in autumn**

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The European Commission has put the final building blocks in place to kick-start investment in the real economy. A package of measures agreed will ensure that the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) is up and running by early autumn 2015, keeping the ambitious timetable set by President Jean-Claude **Juncker** to implement the Investment Plan for Europe. The Commission has just published a [Communication on the role of National Promotional Banks \(NPBs\)](#) in supporting the Investment Plan for Europe. European Commission Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said: "*National Promotional Banks have a very important role to play in making the Investment Plan a success. Already nine Member States have come forward with contributions to the Investment Plan via their promotional banks, which have invaluable local expertise and knowledge. The European Investment Bank is already working closely with those NPBs, and we hope many more will be*



*inspired to step up their efforts."* Commissioner Pierre **Moscovici**, responsible for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, said: *"The synergy between European and national tools will be essential to start rapidly closing the investment gap that our economies face. In order to make this happen, we're convinced that a well-structured network of national promotional banks can play a key role and complement the European Investment Bank."* The Communication explains the important role that NPBs can play in getting Europe investing again by participating in EFSI investments. It provides clarity and practical guidance on how to set up a new NPB, the statistical treatment of NPB co-investments as regards government deficit and debt under the Stability and Growth Pact, the EU state aid treatment of national project co-financing and how NPBs from different Member States can join forces and work with the European Investment Bank (EIB) to set up investment platforms. This crucial guidance will help companies across Europe gain access to financing through EFSI, the cornerstone of the €315 billion Investment Plan. Further decisions taken by the College of Commissioners include:

- Agreement on the working methods between the Commission and the EIB, as foreseen in the [Regulation for a European Fund for Strategic Investments](#). Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, Vice-President Jyrki Katainen and EIB President Werner Hoyer signed the **EFSI agreement** in Brussels earlier.
- Confirmation of the **projects pre-financed** or "warehoused" by the EIB which will receive the backing of the EFSI guarantee. In line with the European Council conclusions of December 2014, which invited the EIB to *"start activities by using its own funds as of January 2015"*, the latter announced several projects to be pre-financed in the context of the Investment Plan for Europe while the adoption of the EFSI Regulation was pending. The warehoused projects to receive the EU guarantee are: Copenhagen Infrastructure II / Abengoa research, development and innovation II / Energy efficiency in residential buildings / Grifols Bioscience R&D / Äänekoski bio-product mill / Redexis Gas Transmission and Distribution / Arvedi Modernisation Programme / Primary healthcare centres PPP / Vienna Hospitals PPP
- The appointment, together with the European Investment Bank (EIB), of the four members of EFSI's **Steering Board**: Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-President responsible for Innovation, EIB; Maarten Verwey, "Structural Reform Support Service" in the Secretariat General, European Commission; Gerassimos Thomas, DG Energy, European Commission; Irmfried Schwimann, DG Competition, European Commission. The Commission alternate members are Benjamin Angel, DG Economic and Financial Affairs; Nicholas Martyn, DG Regional Policy; Robert-Jan Smits, DG Research and Innovation.
- Final arrangements to launch the **European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH)**. The EIAH will support the development and financing of investment projects in the EU by offering a single point of contact for guidance and advice, providing a platform to exchange know-how, and coordinating existing technical assistance.
- Decision on the management and main elements of the **European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)**. The EIPP will be a publicly available, secure web portal where EU based project promoters seeking external financing are given the opportunity to promote their projects to potential investors.
- The delegated act for a **Scoreboard** of indicators which the independent Investment Committee will use when deciding whether a project proposal fits the criteria to receive backing of the EU guarantee (EFSI).



### Background

The economic crisis brought about a sharp drop of investment across Europe. That is why collective and coordinated efforts at European level are needed to reverse this downward trend and put Europe on the path of economic recovery. The Commission set out an approach based on three pillars: **structural reforms** to put Europe on a new growth path; **fiscal responsibility** to restore the soundness of public finances and cement financial stability; and **investment** to kick-start growth and sustain it over time. The Investment Plan for Europe is at the heart of this strategy. On 28 May 2015, just four and a half months after the Commission adopted the legislative proposal on 13 January, EU legislators reached a political agreement on the

Regulation for a European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). Member States unanimously endorsed it on 10 March and the European Parliament voted through the Regulation at their plenary session on 24 June, allowing the EFSI to be operational by early autumn as planned. In February, Germany announced that it would contribute €8 billion to the Investment Plan through KfW. Also in February, Spain announced a €1.5 billion contribution through Instituto de Crédito



Official (ICO). In March, France announced a €8 billion pledge through Caisse des Dépôts (CDC) and Bpifrance (BPI) and Italy announced it will contribute €8 billion via Cassa di Risparmio di Roma (CDR). In April Luxembourg announced that it will contribute €80 million via Société Nationale de Crédit et d'Investissement (SNCI), and Poland announced that it will contribute €8bn via Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK). In June, Slovakia announced a contribution of €400 million through its National Promotional Banks Slovenský Investičný Holding and Slovenská Záručná a Rozvojová Banka, and Bulgaria announced a contribution of €100 million through the Bulgarian Development Bank. On 16 July, the UK announced that it will contribute £6 billion (about €8.5 billion) to projects benefiting from EFSI finance.

## 9. Spring 2015 Standard Eurobarometer

More Europeans say they have a positive image of the European Union and trust in the EU has gone up since [last November](#). In addition, citizens see immigration as the major challenge facing the EU currently. These are some of the results of the latest Standard Eurobarometer survey published. The survey was carried out between 16 and 27 May 2015 in 34 countries or territories. **Immigration seen as the major challenge facing the EU**

Asking citizens about their main concerns, **immigration is now at the top of the most frequently cited topics at EU level**. With 38% (+14 points) it is now way ahead of the economic situation (27%, -6 points), unemployment (24%, -5 points) and the Member States public finances (23%, -2 points). It is the number one most frequently cited concern in 20 Member States reaching peaks in Malta (65%) and Germany (55%). Concern for **terrorism** at EU level has also increased significantly since November 2014 (17%, +6 points).



### Support for European Commission's political priorities

As in the previous survey of November 2014, there is a strong endorsement by citizens of the **priority topics set by the European Commission under President Juncker**.

- On **investment** within the EU, 59% of Europeans agree public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level.
- On **energy**, 72% of Europeans are in favour of a common energy policy among EU Member States.
- Most Europeans regard the **single market** (the free movement of people, goods and services within the EU) as the most positive achievement of the EU (57%), almost at par with peace among the Member States (55%).
- Regarding the issue of **migration**, 73% of Europeans say they are in favour of a common European policy on migration. Most Europeans (51%) are positive about migration of people from other EU Member States. However, 56% are negative about immigration of people from outside the EU.

Finally, citizens remain optimistic about the **future of the EU**. 58% (+2 points) of Europeans say they are optimistic while 36% (-1 point) say they are pessimistic.

### The image of the EU keeps improving

The number of Europeans who say they have a **positive image of the EU** has risen from 39% last November to 41% in May 2015, while 38% have a neutral image and only 19% a negative image (down from 22% in November and 25% in June 2014). Moreover, the number of Europeans who say they **trust the European Union** has also gone up to 40% (up by 3 percentage points since November 2014 and 9 percentage points since the 2014 European Parliament elections). The average level of trust in national governments has also risen slightly to 31% (+2 points). The number of citizens who say that **their voice counts in the EU** has reached 42% (+2 points), sustaining the 10-year peak observed after the European elections in 2014.

### Expectations for the economy are improving and support for the euro remains stable

**On the economy**, the expectations of Europeans for the national economic situation remain rather stable, with more than one in four of them (26%, +4 points) being optimistic about the next twelve months while 48% expect the situation to remain the same. Pessimistic expectations decrease sharply and reach 21% (-7 points). The number of Europeans who think that **the impact of the**

**crisis on jobs has already reached its peak** (48%, +4 points) is now clearly more important than those who think "the worst is still to come" (42%, -4 points). The positive stance on **the euro** remains stable (57% in the EU overall, 69% in the euro area). Support for the single currency has increased in 14 Member States, most strikingly in **Lithuania** (73%, +10 points) which has joined the euro area on 1 January 2015 and in **Greece, where 69% (+6 points) of Greeks say they are in favour of the Euro.**

#### **Background**

The Spring 2015 Standard Eurobarometer is the second EU-wide opinion poll conducted since the Juncker Commission took office on 1 November 2014. It was conducted through face-to-face interviews between 16 and 27 May 2015. A total of 31,868 people were interviewed across the EU Member States and in the candidate countries.

#### **Further information**

The 'First results report' outlines Europeans' attitudes towards the EU, its institutions and policies, as well as citizens' main concerns and perceptions of the economic situation.

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## **10. Managing migration and financing a safer and more secure Europe**

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The European Commission has this month approved 23 multiannual national programmes under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF). The total funding for the agreed programmes is approximately €2.4 billion, for the period 2014-2020. Money will now be able to flow to frontline Member States such as Greece and Italy, and to other EU Member States also dealing with high migratory flows. The Commission has worked intensively with



Member States to ensure that EU funds are released urgently. 22 national programmes were already approved in March, and an additional 13 programmes will be approved later this year. Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Commissioner **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: "*Member States nowadays face unprecedented challenges in the fields of migration and security and the Commission is taking action in a spirit of solidarity. Through the European Agendas on Migration and Security, the Commission is taking bold steps to improve migration management, foster*

*cooperation and make Europe safer from organised crime and terrorism for our citizens. The national programmes approved by the Commission provide significant financial assistance to the Member States to address these challenges. We are determined to continue to put solidarity into practice.*"

The AMIF funding supports national efforts to improve reception capacities, ensure that asylum procedures are in line with Union standards, integrate migrants at local and regional levels and increase the effectiveness of return programmes. Funding from ISF complements national efforts to improve Member States' border management and surveillance (in particular through the use of modern technologies). ISF funding is also used for cross-border law enforcement cooperation and strengthens Member States' capacity to effectively manage security-related risks such as terrorism and violent radicalisation, drug trafficking, cybercrime, trafficking in human beings, and other forms of organised crime. In addition to the basic allocation, most national programmes are complemented by additional amounts made available for the implementation of specific transnational actions. These can include joint return and reintegration projects under the AMIF or the setting up of consular cooperation under the ISF. Additional funding under the ISF will also be invested in the purchase of large-scale equipment that will be put at the disposal of Frontex. This resource will be available for joint operations whenever needed. Additionally, almost €37 million will be channelled through the AMIF programmes to support the Union Resettlement Programme in the period 2014-2015. The Commission is working towards the swift approval of the remaining national programmes. With a total budget of almost €7 billion for AMIF and ISF for the period 2014-20, these Funds are the principal EU financial instruments for investing in an open and secure Europe.

#### **Background**

EU efforts in the field of Migration and Home Affairs are supported by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund. The **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund** contributes to the efficient management of migration flows and the development of a common approach to asylum and migration. The Internal Security Fund (consisting of the **Borders and Visa** and the **Police Cooperation and Crisis Management Instrument**) helps ensure a high level of security and crime prevention in the Union, while at the same time enabling legitimate travel and ensuring solid management of the Union's external borders. 85% of the Funds are channelled through the multiannual strategic national programmes: covering the 2014-2020 period. After Commission approval, these programmes are prepared, implemented, monitored and evaluated by the responsible authorities in the Member States, in partnership with the relevant stakeholders, including civil society. The resettlement and relocation schemes recently proposed by the Commission and endorsed by the Council will be implemented through the AMIF national programmes. The remaining funds, accounting for around 15% of the total resources, are managed by the Commission, based on individual work programmes. It is through these Commission work programmes that Union Actions and emergency assistance to Member States are funded. 23 national programmes were approved by the Commission over the past weeks: 7 AMIF programmes (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden) and 16 ISF programmes (Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain). Earlier this year, 22 national programmes were approved by the Commission: 17 AMIF programmes (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom) and 5 ISF programmes (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, France). The remaining 13 national programmes will be approved later in 2015.

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## 11. Mediterranean Journalist Award

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From 1 July 2015 and until the 1 September 2015, journalists who are nationals of one of the 42 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean have the opportunity to participate in the Ninth edition of the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Journalist Award. Founded in 2006 in partnership with the International Federation of Journalists, this leading regional Award aims at rewarding exceptional journalistic productions, contributing to a better understanding of the diversity of cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean region as well as promoting the positive role played by media in reporting on issues of cultural diversity and providing balanced and informed coverage in the region. The Award is promoted each year through an open competition across the Mediterranean region, this edition, a prestigious international jury of media experts will preselect a number of finalists to be invited to attend the Award Ceremony by the end of the year 2015, among which five winners will be announced during the ceremony. The winners will receive a cash prize and will be invited to travel to other parts of the Euro-Med region as media ambassadors in the framework of the "Journalist Award: Exchange". Learn more about the winning works in [previous editions](#). Submit your journalistic work **before the 1 September 2015**. Learn more about the different [categories](#) and [regulations](#).



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## 12. European Youth photocontest

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What is it like to be young nowadays? For this photocontest, we're asking you to share with us your creative interpretation of what being a young person in or outside of Europe is like. This can include pictures showcasing friendship, learning, travel, volunteering, or whatever represents being young to you. The winner will receive a €200 Amazon gift card! **Submit photos by 31 August**. For more information visit this [link](#).



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### 13. European Green Leaf

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The Call for Applications for the 2016 European Green Leaf (EGL) opened on Wednesday 3rd June 2015. This competition is now open to all towns and cities across Europe with 20,000 – 100,000 inhabitants. To apply for the 2016 European Green Leaf please [register here](#). **What is the European Green Leaf?** The European Green Leaf is a new competition aimed at cities and towns, with between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants, that recognises commitment to better environmental outcomes, with a particular accent on efforts that generate green growth and new jobs. **The objectives of the European Green Leaf are threefold:** To recognise cities that demonstrate a good environmental record and commitment to generating green growth; To encourage cities to actively develop citizens' environmental awareness and involvement; To identify cities able to act as a 'green ambassador' and to encourage other cities to progress towards a better sustainability outcomes. The European Green Leaf will be presented on an annual basis by the European Commission in conjunction with the European Green Capital Award from 2015 onwards as a stamp of approval to *Towns and Cities, Growing Greener!* Eight Cities from seven countries across Europe applied for the pilot 2015 European Green Leaf competition. Find out more about the 2015 EGL [here](#).



#### Background

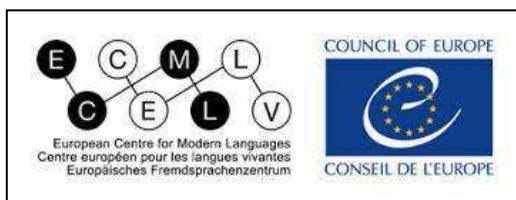
To underpin the work of creating an ever-better environment for European citizens, the EU adopted the 7th Environment Action Programme (7th EAP) entitled "Living well, within the limits of our planet". It provides the basis for EU environment policy up to 2020. This programme aims to enhance Europe's ecological resilience and transform the EU into an inclusive and sustainable green economy. The 7th EAP includes a specific policy objective "To enhance the sustainability of EU cities". It foresees that the EU will promote and expand existing initiatives that support innovation and best practices in cities, enabling better networking and exchanges between cities and encouraging the leading ones to show how they lead on sustainable urban development. The European Green Capital Award (EGCA) launched in 2008, is one such initiative. Following its success, many smaller cities seek EU recognition of their effort and commitment in the areas of sustainability & environment. In response, the European Commission has launched the new pilot European Green Leaf (EGL) initiative. It will run as a pilot project for 2015 using one language (English) and if successful as expected, will be further developed in due course to include other languages. If you would like more information on the European Green Leaf Competition, please send an email to: [info@europeangreenleaf.eu](mailto:info@europeangreenleaf.eu). For more information visit this [link](#). **Submission deadline: October 19, 2015.**

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### 14. The ECML offers traineeships

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The ECML offers traineeships, lasting in general **6 months**, twice a year. According to their field of interest applicants can choose the main area in which they would like to be involved (although the tasks will cover a wide variety of areas):



- organisation of events and meetings ([Programme](#));
- documentation and resources ([DRC](#));
- the Centre's website ([Website](#));
- finances and general administration ([Administration](#)).

**Application deadlines: 31 August** for the period **January to June** of the following year.

Although we do not systematically follow the careers of our trainees, from our ongoing contacts we see that many have continued to work in the area of international cooperation. We would like to think that their stay at the Centre has influenced their decision in this respect. [Application form](#) In order to apply for the traineeship, you should use the attached application form. We kindly ask you to describe your language skills in accordance to the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages**. For an explanation on the six levels of proficiency, please, refer to the Council of Europe Language Policy Division's specific site on the [European Language Portfolio](#).

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## 15. Concluded the meeting in Potenza and new meeting in Lipsia

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From 28/06/2015 till 06/07/2015 has been realised in Potenza the 2nd workshop of the project "The Artist Within – Applied Emotion", approved in the field of the programme KA2 Erasmus Plus- Adult education. Project partners are the following organisms: Association on Refugees and Migrants, ARM-BG (Bulgaria); Spoleczna Akademia Nauk (Poland); Comparative Research Network e.V., CRN (Germany); Theater Vision e.V., (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); Hungarian Association for Expressive Arts and Dance Therapy, IKTE (Hungary). The aim of the project is the development and integration of different models of art activities in the formal and non-formal education. The Italian workshop has been dedicated to the area of

animation and storytelling. In next October will be held in Leipzig the 3rd project: this third activity will be divided into several blocks:

1) **intercultural stimulation** – making the participants aware of their own "cultural glasses"

2) **journey to your own inner clown figure** that can help to discover your own comical sides as well as to discover that you can use your foibles as a strength and as an initial point for a playful being

3) **humour strategies** - reflections about the symptom "humour", about your own humour and how can it be used in difficult situations of every day life, what materials can help and which techniques can learned? theoretical and practical parts

4) **theatre improvisation** - helpful games and plays as energizers for group works as well as developing your improvisation theatre and clown skills

5) **movement and improvisation** exercises followed by open discussions on the methods

6) **implementation/embedding** of the tools and methods together that we discovered throughout the week. Our aim is to support the transfer of the shown techniques to the situations you usually face in your work - discussing concrete examples and using role play.

We will give you more details on this 3rd workshop in our next newsletter.



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## 16. Concluded youth exchange: "Wipe Autz! Superior" in Finland

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In the period 31/07/2015-07/08/2015 was held in Kokkola in Finland, at the Youth Centre Villa Elba, the youth exchange "Wipe Autz! Superior" with the participation of four boys and one leader from Spain, Slovakia, Austria, Turkey, Belgium, Germany, Finland and Italy (for which have participated in two organizations: an organization for the City of Turin and our association EURO -NET). The purpose of the exchange was to raise awareness of the different cultures, traditions of the participating countries and to acquire new skills through outdoor games and the courses that have

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## 17. Contact Making Seminar in Potenza

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From next 23/08/2015 till the end of the month will be held in Potenza a contact seminar titled "Contact Making Seminar New prospects for Minorities and Inclusive Europe" (Action no. 2014-3-IT03-KA105-004344 - Erasmus Plus - KA1 Mobility of youth workers - Partner Countries). The project involves the construction of a contact seminar to be attended by 30 people (three from each partner organization) to be realized in Potenza in Italy. The partner countries are: Italy (our



organisation EURO-NET is the coordinator of the project), Russia, Moldova, Lithuania, Denmark, Armenia, Georgia, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Cyprus. During the seminar the participants will discuss on the following topics: Non-formal education and Youthpass; What is a minority? European citizenship; Overcome cultural barriers; What are the tools for the protection of minorities and what can we do? Youth and EU policies; European identity, inclusion and cultural diversity.

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## 18. Compilation MY WAY finally ready

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It is going to be printed the MY WAY Compilation, conducted within the homonymous project, approved in the LLP Leonardo da Vinci - Transfer of Innovation. The Compilation MY WAY, as the



main project output, provides data and tested measures for interested persons and organisations in Europe that want to contribute to the improvement of the situation of youth at risk. Partner countries and other interested countries may step out of their national well-known intervention programs, learn

from our experiences and try out new ideas and successful measures such as the Austrian Youth Coaching Model. The innovative Peer Education sessions, the recommendations from the final beneficiaries and the Austrian Youth Coaching Model can be adapted for the use in all European member states. The Compilation is therefore an effective tool for further developments towards social inclusion of youth at risk:

- to improving the knowledge of professionals, experts, and trainers in the social and employment field;
- to widening the intervention program in EU countries for unemployed youth;
- to raising awareness about different intervention programs, needs of youth at risk, to reaching youth at risk, integration of youth at risk into training or education;
- to improving the Austrian Youth Coaching concept with pedagogical materials and interventions from EU good practices and recommendations from the direct beneficiaries.

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## 19. Start of our new Project KA2

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It is going to start our new Erasmus Plus KA2 Youth project titled "The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker", which was established by the needs and necessities identified by partner organizations in the field of youth work. It is in fact noted that in several countries in Europe there are no facilities that offer courses for people interested in becoming youth leaders and even there is no clear process of training, assessment and certification of the work of a youth worker. The project, therefore, is precisely to work for such a professionalization for the potential role of the operator in the field of youth work and to effectively drive young people to the wanted career. More details will be provided in future issues of the newsletter.



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## 20. KA2 Erasmus new projects approved

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We are pleased to announce that other two new projects of KA2 Erasmus Plus were approved to our organisation in various European countries. The approved projects are:

- 1) EURBANITIES - Empowering civil Participation through game based learning (funded by the National Agency Erasmus Plus in Germany)
- 2) ENT-NET: Promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship through a training network (funded by the National Agency Erasmus Plus in Spain).

We will give more information about the two projects in our future newsletters.



## 21. Concluded youth exchange "Journey into Finance" in Romania

In the last 12 day of July was held in Titu in Romania the second phase of the project titled "Journey into Finance" approved under the Erasmus KA1 - training courses. This second step of the initiative (after the first training meeting made some months ago and always in Titu and Bucharest), involved the realisation of the youth exchange with the participation of six young students and an accompanying teacher for each delegation from the following countries: Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Turkey, Croatia and of course Italy (with our delegation).



**23. Concluded the training course "Leadership = Employability" in London**



In the period 17-24 July 2015 was held in London the training course "Leadership = Employability" approved the project Erasmus KA1 Plus training courses. The goal of the project was to develop the leadership skills of young people, in order to increase their employment opportunities. Participants were able to understand their own leadership style, their career ambitions, motivations and what may be the next steps they need to develop their careers. The course was attended by young people aged 18-25 years, recent graduates, professionals or university students. The training program was intensive, innovative and challenging. Were also made some social activities and visits, including a visit to the Palace of Parliament ANED VARIOUS visits to companies and organizations in the City of London. This training course was attended by two guys for our association.

## 24. VET4Start-up: the situation of the project



In early June the project partners of “VET4Start-up” (project carried out in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus Vet KA2 (2014-1 action-IT01 KA202-002487), met in Malta for the 2nd Transnational meeting. The activities were very intense: they discussed on best practices and tested the MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) platform: During the meeting was also selected the educational content of the modules and finally were planned in detail the activities of the coming months. Participants also had the opportunity to meet a local start-up and appreciate the beauty and the mild climate of the island.

## 25. OpenGovEU: concluded the meeting in Estonia

The project OpenGovEU, approved under the program LLP Grundtvig Partnerships Learning, has completed its activities. In early July there was the 6th meeting in Estonia where it is discussed the finalization of outputs and outcomes, dissemination, final report and EST database. During the meeting it was possible to use software for the active participation. There were also moments of conviviality, greetings, hugs but also proposals for possible future activities. Please note that the biennial project was promoted and coordinated by EURO-NET, with the participation of 12 different countries (Italy, England, Romania, Turkey, Holland, Poland, Germany, France, Portugal, Norway, Estonia and Greece).

