



# 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. Report on progress towards an effective and sustainable Security Union

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**The European Commission is presenting the first in a series of monthly reports on progress made towards an effective and sustainable Security Union.**

The report outlines the Commission's efforts in the fight against terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime and the work undertaken to strengthen the EU's resilience against these threats. It also highlights the priority areas where more work is needed and sets out concrete operational measures for the months to come. Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *"The fragmentation of our security framework makes us all vulnerable. The dots have to be connected within and between Member States, but also between*



*Member States and EU Agencies, and between the different security and border management systems. The internal security of one Member State is the internal security of all. In this rapidly changing security environment, delivering on a genuine and effective Security Union means delivering on all elements."* Commissioner for the Security Union, **Julian King** said: *"Terrorists don't target one member state or another. They target our way of life, our openness, our future. Our response needs to be comprehensive and sustainable, building on trust and the effective cooperation between institutions*

*and Member States."* The report underlines the need to implement existing EU legislation and to accelerate the work on security related proposals presented by the Commission. The Commission's work will focus on strengthening the fight against terrorism by depriving terrorists of the means to commit attacks and enhancing our defence and resilience against these threats. The main priority areas are:

### **Improving the legal framework and preventing and fighting radicalisation:**

- To this end, an agreement should be reached before the end of the year on the Commission's proposal for a **Directive on combating terrorism**. The Directive is vital to ensure that the EU's legal framework can tackle terrorist threats effectively, in particular threats posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters.
- An agreement should also be reached before the end of the year on the revision of the **Firearms Directive**. The Commission will continue to urge the co-legislators to maintain the level of ambition, particularly the objective to ban the most dangerous semi-automatic firearms.
- The Commission has taken action to reduce access to precursors that can be used to make homemade explosives and ensure full implementation of the **Regulation on the marketing and use of explosive precursors**. To this effect, additional precursor substances of concern to be included in the Regulation have been identified and will be added to the list of substances subject to enhanced control by the Commission in November.

### **Improving information exchange, strengthening information systems and enhancing security at the external borders:**

- Member States should urgently take the necessary steps to build their Passenger Information Units (PIUs) to ensure that they are able to implement fully the **EU PNR Directive** at the latest by May 2018, the deadline for full implementation of the Directive. To support Member States to accelerate their work, the Commission will make available an additional €70 million in EU funding and will present an **implementation plan** by November 2016 including milestones that Member States will need to meet in order to have their PIUs up and running.
- To strengthen the fight against cross border crime, the Commission has also in September initiated [infringement procedures](#) against Member States who had not yet implemented the **Prüm Decisions**.
- The Commission will also take the necessary steps to enable the **European Counter Terrorism Centre** at Europol to provide 24/7 support to Member States.
- The work of the important **High Level Expert Group** set up by the Commission in April 2016 to address legal, technical and operational aspects of different options to achieve greater interoperability of information systems needs to be accelerated. The Commission will present interim findings to the Council and to the European Parliament in the course of the next months.

- Work is also ongoing as regards the Commission's legislative proposal for an **EU Travel and Information Authorisation System (ETIAS)** to provide prior checks for visa-exempt third-country nationals travelling to the Schengen area, which will be presented by November.
- In addition, swift negotiations and adoption of the **Commission proposal for systematic checks** of EU citizens crossing the external borders by the end of 2016 and the establishment of an **EU Entry-Exist System (EES)** are necessary to enhance security at the external EU borders.

The present report is the first of a series of monthly reports on the progress made towards an operational and effective Security Union, as requested by President Juncker in his mission letter addressed to Commissioner Julian King. The monthly reports will highlight action taken by the EU institutions and EU Agencies in the area of security and will identify where more efforts are needed. The next progress report is foreseen for November 2016.

#### Background

Security has been a constant theme since the beginning of the Juncker Commission's mandate – from President Juncker's Political Guidelines of July 2014, to the latest State of the Union address on September 2016. The European Commission adopted the [European Agenda on Security](#) on 28 April 2015, setting out the main actions to ensure an effective EU response to terrorism and security threats in the European Union over the period 2015-2020. Since the adoption of the Agenda, significant progress has been made in its implementation. Key areas of attention have been reinforced by Action Plans adopted in December 2015 on firearms and explosives, in February 2016 on strengthening the fight against terrorist financing, the Communication of 6 April 2016 on Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security, and the Communication of 20 April 2016 on Delivering on the European Agenda on Security to fight against terrorism and pave the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union. Most recently, the launch on 6 October of a European Border and Coast Guard, as announced by President Juncker in his State of the Union Speech on 9 September 2015 and only 9 months after the Commission's proposal in December, shows a clear commitment to implement the measures under the European Agenda on Migration to reinforce the management and security of the EU's external borders. The creation by President Juncker of a specific Commissioner portfolio for the Security Union in August 2016 shows the importance the Commission has attached to stepping up its response to the terrorist threat. The Commissioner will be assisted by a cross cutting Task Force drawing on the expertise of the whole Commission to drive work forward and to ensure implementation. The first Task Force meeting was held on 22 September 2016.



## 2. European Court of Auditors signs off the EU accounts for 9th year in a row

**The European Court of Auditors gave the EU annual accounts a clean bill of health for the 9th year in a row. The Court found that, in particular in cohesion policy and agriculture, the overall estimated level of error for payments has further declined from 4.4% in 2014 to 3.8% in 2015.**

No errors were found in the examined revenue transactions. Administrative expenditure continued to be the area with the lowest level of error.



**Kristalina Georgieva**, European Commission Vice-President in charge of Budget and Human Resources, said: *'The EU budget is all about delivering for people and I am pleased by the progress we are making in this regard and which can be clearly seen in the ECA's latest report. Money is being better directed to where it is needed but it is also being managed more effectively. We need to do more of this. EU money belongs to our citizens and we owe it to them that every euro is well spent, in accordance with the rules.'*

#### Incentives for better control of EU spending by Member States

Member States manage 80% of the EU budget, and the Commission has developed incentives to encourage each Member State to further improve its management and control systems. The goal is to make Member States detect, report and correct

any irregularities early, so that they do not risk losing funds to which they would have been entitled. The Commission is assisting Member States in this endeavour by sharing good practices, providing guidance and organising training for the national authorities that spend EU funds on the ground.

#### **Continued focus on performance**

The European Commission has taken a number of further measures to ensure that every euro from the EU budget is well spent. In 2015 it launched the 'EU budget focussed on results' initiative to ensure that EU resources are put to good use for the benefit of citizens and that EU-funded projects demonstrate clear benefits and value for money. The goal is to use the EU budget to stimulate growth, jobs and competitiveness, and to respond swiftly and effectively to new challenges and emergencies. In 2015, a single webportal was launched, publishing information about results achieved by the EU budget: [EU Results](#).

#### **Clawing EU funds back if spent incorrectly**

In the cases where the Commission finds that EU funds were spent incorrectly, it takes measures to claw the money back - the average being roughly €3 billion every year. For the financial year 2015, the Commission estimates that future claw-back measures could bring the remaining amount at risk to a level between 0.8% and 1.3% of payments.

#### **Reducing errors thanks to simplification of rules**

In September 2016, the Commission presented its mid-term review of the multiannual financial framework (2014-2020). The review is accompanied by an ambitious proposal to simplify financial rules. Simpler rules reduce errors and increase the effectiveness of EU funding.

#### **More information:**

The signing-off of the 2015 accounts by the Court of Auditors opens the annual 'discharge procedure'. To facilitate this process, in July 2016 the Commission put together reports on EU revenue, expenditure, management and performance in the year 2015. This [Integrated Financial Reporting Package](#) demonstrated that the EU budget is delivering results in line with the Commission's priorities and is implemented properly.

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### **3. Cohesion Policy at work: key outcomes of EU investments in 2007-2013**

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#### **The European Commission has released the findings of an independent evaluation of EU investments done in the 2007-2013 period, with specific reports for each Member State.**

One million jobs created, corresponding to one-third of overall net job creation across the EU during this period and €2.74 of additional GDP for every euro of Cohesion Policy money invested, meaning an estimated return of €1 trillion of additional GDP by 2023 – these are the [key results](#) of the evaluation of the 2007-2013 period. Commissioner for Regional Policy **Corina Crețu** said: *"The figures speak for themselves – Cohesion Policy delivers. I believe this policy is necessary, and we need to keep it strong, also after 2020. The evaluation contributes to our reflection on how to further strengthen the efficiency and performance of the policy in the 2014-2020 period, and in the years after that."* The policy has benefitted the economies of all EU Member States and supported them during difficult economic times. It has invested in nearly 400,000 SMEs and start-ups and has been a pillar of the EU's growth and jobs agenda. Among other telling examples in Member States, the policy has helped to: Create over 100,000 jobs in Germany; Support 21,000 start-ups in Sweden; Support around 3,900 research projects in Hungary; Upgrade over 630 km of road, mainly on the [Trans-European Transport Network \(TEN-T\)](#), in Latvia. The evaluation of the 2007-2013 period also helped identify areas where the policy can improve:



#### **Result-orientation and performance**

The evaluation indicates that targets and focus on results can be strengthened. This has been addressed in the 2014-2020 reform, with the introduction of specific objectives per programme – for example, jobs created or reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – and a focus on a few themes, with high growth potential. Further focus on performance, through simplification and increased synergies with other EU funds is central to the reflection on the post-2020 framework.

### **Use of financial instruments**

The 2007-2013 period saw an increased use of the funds through financial instruments, which amounted to €11.5 billion, up from €1 billion in 2000-2006. These instruments played a crucial role in providing funding to SMEs during the credit crunch of the financial crisis. The evaluation found that the legal provisions were not detailed enough and this, together with the lack of experience of many implementing bodies, led to delays in implementation. A challenge for Cohesion Policy programmes in the current and future programming periods will be to widen the scope of these instruments beyond enterprise support and to streamline the rules governing them.

### **Sustainable urban development**

11% of the 2007-2013 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) envelope was spent on urban development and social infrastructure projects, i.e. nearly €29 billion. The evaluation found that the impact of EU investments in this field could have been maximised by designing integrated strategies for urban regeneration and social projects, with a greater involvement of local stakeholders and beneficiaries of the funds. In the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes, and faced with new urban challenges such as the need to integrate migrants, the Commission is increasingly seeking to involve urban stakeholders - local authorities, NGO's or business partners - in EU urban policy making, either through partnerships in the framework of the [Urban Agenda for the EU](#) or through direct dialogue with mayors.

### **Background information**

€346.5 billion were invested under the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy. This evaluation brings about increased transparency and accountability as well as it is a learning exercise, drawing lessons for improving Cohesion Policy in both the current and future programming periods. To ensure independence, the evaluation was executed by external evaluation experts. The evaluation was divided in 14 thematic "work packages". Over the course of the evaluation more than 3,000 beneficiaries and 1,000 Managing Authority employees were interviewed, 530 stakeholders participated in 10 seminars, 80 organisations responded to an online consultation and each work package was examined by external experts.

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## **4. New EU rules guarantee legal aid in criminal proceedings**

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### **The new rules on legal aid proposed by the Commission in 2013 cleared the final hurdle.**

The Council adopted the Directive on legal aid for suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings. Legal aid is the financial or judicial support received by a suspect or accused person, who does not have the resources to cover the costs of the proceedings. The new rules will ensure that the right to legal aid is provided and the legal aid itself is



offered in a uniform way across the EU. Suspects or accused persons should benefit from legal aid from the early stages of criminal proceedings and it will be granted under clear criteria defined in the Directive.

**Frans Timmermans**, First-Vice President in charge of the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, stated: *"Anyone who is the subject of criminal proceedings has a right to legal protection and a lawyer they can afford. That is what the rule of law is about. We adopted rules that will ensure this across this Union."* **Věra Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, said: *"Legal aid is essential to guarantee access to a*

*fair justice system that caters for everyone, including the poorest. We've strengthened procedural rights over the last years. Anyone suspected or accused in Europe will be guaranteed a fair trial. But there is no point in citizens having the right to access to a lawyer, if they cannot afford it. Therefore decision is crucial for the European area of justice and fundamental rights."*

The new Directive provides for the following guarantees:

- **Legal aid is granted swiftly**

Legal aid will be granted at the latest before questioning, especially by the police, or before certain investigative or evidence-gathering acts, as set out in the Directive.

- **Clear criteria to grant legal aid**

Member States apply different tests to determine whether to grant legal aid: a means test (related to the resources of the person concerned including income and fortune), a merits test (related to

necessity to ensure effective access to justice in the circumstances of the case) or both. The new rules set out clear criteria to establish these tests:

- If a Member State applies a means test, it should take into account all relevant and objective factors, such as the income, capital and family situation of the person concerned, the costs of legal assistance and the standard of living in the relevant Member State. This will help them determine whether suspects or accused persons lack sufficient resources to pay for legal assistance.
- If a Member State applies a merits test, it should take into account the seriousness of the offence, the complexity of the case and the severity of the penalty at stake, in order to determine whether the interests of justice require granting legal aid.
- **Legal aid in European arrest warrant proceedings**  
There will be a right to legal aid in [European arrest warrant](#) proceedings. This right will apply both in the Member State that executes such an arrest warrant and – in criminal prosecution cases – also in the Member State where it has been issued.
- **Better decision-making process on legal aid**  
The Directive ensures that decisions concerning legal aid are made diligently, and that people are informed in writing if their application is rejected in full or in part. It sets out rules on quality of legal aid and on training of staff involved in the decision-making process, including lawyers. In the event of a breach of the rights under this Directive, an effective remedy must be available.

#### **Next steps**

Member States are required to transpose the Directive within 30 months after its publication in the Official Journal of the Union. These rights will be available as of May 2019.

#### **Background**

This Directive will apply to all Member States, except Denmark, Ireland and the UK.

The Legal Aid Directive is the third and last Directive agreed from a package of proposals in the field of fair trial rights in criminal proceedings presented by the Commission in November 2013. Its adoption completes the EU Roadmap to strengthen procedural rights of suspected or accused people in criminal proceedings set up in 2009. Significant progress has been achieved over the last years to strengthen the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in the European Union. Since the adoption of the EU Roadmap to strengthen procedural rights of suspected or accused people in criminal proceedings (2009), five directives have been adopted. They provide for essential rights such as the right to interpretation and translation, the right to information and the right of access to a lawyer. They also ensure the principle of presumption of innocence and the right to be present at one's trial and, most recently, procedural safeguards for children involved in criminal proceedings.

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## **5. A New Europass Framework**

**The Commission has adopted a proposal to revise the Europass Decision. Europass is a suite of tools and services which support the transparency of skills and qualifications across the European Union.**

The Commission has adopted a proposal to revise the Europass Decision. Europass is a suite of tools and services which support the transparency of skills and qualifications across the European Union. With this revision, the Commission aims to simplify and modernise these tools for the digital age and to add a new feature using big data to map and anticipate labour market trends and skills needs. Europe's prosperity depends upon our most valuable asset – our people. In a fast-changing global economy, it is people's skills which will be a motor for our competitiveness and growth. Europass is one of Europe's most used and well-known skills resources. Since it was established in 2005, more than 60 million Europass CVs have been created and hundreds of thousands of learners across the EU receive Diploma and Certificate Supplements every year which help to make their qualifications more readable and easily comparable abroad; backed-up with advice and support services on the ground in Member States. The new Europass Framework will build upon this successful formula with easy to use tools to help people identify and communicate their skills and qualifications in all EU languages.



These include an improved online tool for creating CVs and skills profiles, free self-assessment tools to help you evaluate your skills, tailored information on learning opportunities across Europe, and information and support to help you get your qualifications recognised as well as labour market intelligence about what skills are most in demand and where. The new Europass Framework will also link with other EU tools and services across labour and education and training systems, such as the EURES job mobility portal, allowing for an easier exchange of information and more joined-up services for end-users. National support centres will continue to offer individual advice and guidance to help people navigate the skills and qualifications landscape. **Marianne Thyssen**, Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, stated: *"Skills are a pathway to prosperity and the key to good quality jobs. With the right skills people can fulfil their potential as confident, active citizens in the changing world of work. The new Europass Framework will give people tools to showcase their skills and qualifications in a user-friendly way and access to information and support services to inform their choices about study and work across Europe."* The



revision is part of the [New Skills Agenda for Europe](#), presented on 10 June 2016.

### Background

The Europass framework The single European framework for the transparency of qualifications, Europass, was established by the Decision 2241/2004/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 December 2004. The overall objective of the initiative is to support the mobility of people in Europe, including for education and employment purposes. It increases awareness of and access to tools which make skills and qualifications visible and easy to understand amongst learners, job-seekers, employees and employers, and

education and training institutions among others. At the core of the existing Europass Framework is a portfolio of documents:

- the Europass Curriculum Vitae (CV) completed by any individual to report on his/her qualifications, professional experience, skills and competences;
- the Europass Language Passport (ELP) completed by any individual to report on her/his language skills;
- the Europass Certificate Supplement (ECS) issued by vocational educational and training authorities to their students along with their award certificates adding information to make certificates more easily understandable especially by employers or institutions outside the issuing country;
- the Europass Diploma Supplement (EDS) issued by higher education institutions to their graduates along with their degree or diploma to make these educational qualifications more easily understandable, especially outside the country where they were awarded;
- the Europass Mobility Document (EMD) for recording any organised period of learning or training time that a person spends in another European country, completed by the home and host organisations.

Since 2005, Europass has had more than 126 million website visits; over 93 million document templates have been downloaded while more than 60 million Europass CVs, by far the most popular tool, have been created online. An evaluation of the Europass Framework carried out in 2013 highlighted its achievements. Europass documents have been taken up by all groups of stakeholders and have helped people change their job or location (CV, Language Passport and Certificate Supplement were all reported to be instrumental in this by more than 60% of their surveyed users) and gain learning opportunities such as admission to educational institutions (46% of Certificate Supplement users, 50% of Language Passport users, and smaller proportions of surveyed users of other documents). Moreover, Europass played an important role in mobility within the same country (40% of surveyed users were mobile in their home country). The documents have become widely used within countries such as Italy and Spain, which display above average usage rates of the CV, while in France the Europass Mobility Document has been adapted for use by individuals to profile their own skills.

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## 6. Progress of the Youth Guarantee and of the Youth Employment Initiative

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**The European Commission adopted a Communication that highlights the main achievements of the Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) since their launch in 2013.**

the European Commission adopted a Communication that highlights the main achievements of the [Youth Guarantee](#) and [Youth Employment Initiative \(YEI\)](#) since their launch in 2013 and draws lessons on how to improve the EU and national efforts on deploying national Youth Guarantee schemes. Last year, this Commission took measures to accelerate the implementation of the Youth Guarantee by [increasing the pre-financing of the Youth Employment Initiative](#). In his State of the Union speech of 14 September 2016, President **Juncker** stressed his commitment to “continue to roll out the Youth Guarantee across Europe, improving the skillset of Europeans and reaching out to the regions and young people most in need.” **Valdis Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, said: “The Youth Guarantee is now a reality across Europe and the financial support the EU delivers will be crucial to continue to support Member States in helping to get young people back into work or into education. Young people are our future and it is our shared responsibility to give each and every one of them an opportunity to succeed on the labour market”. **Marianne Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, commented: “The measures and reforms implemented under the Youth Guarantee have made a difference in the lives of more than 9 million young people. The Youth Guarantee has supported important reforms to countries’ educational systems, employment services, and partnerships to deliver better opportunities for young people. I am confident that with continued political commitment, sufficient resources and strong resolve, we will reap the benefits of the work carried out so far and have the results we are all striving for. Therefore the Commission has recently proposed to increase budget resources for the Youth Employment Initiative until 2020.”

The Youth Guarantee is a political commitment taken by all EU Member States in the form of a Council recommendation of April 2013, following a proposal from the Commission, to give every young people a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education. The Youth Employment Initiative is the main EU funding programme initiated at the same time to facilitate the roll-out of the Youth Guarantee and give particular support to regions where youth unemployment rate is over 25%. All Member States are also making use of their share of the European Social Fund (ESF) to support youth employment. The Communication adopted reports on progress so far and shows that although youth unemployment remains a key concern in many Member States, young people's labour market performance in the EU has overall surpassed expectations since 2013. There are 1.4 million less young unemployed in the EU since 2013 and 900,000 less young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). These encouraging trends suggest that the Youth Guarantee, backed up by the Youth Employment Initiative, has helped make a difference on the ground. Around 9 million young people took up an offer, the majority of which were offers of employment. Moreover, the Youth Guarantee has been a catalyst for policy change, leading to structural reforms and policy innovation across Member States. The Youth Employment Initiative, a €6.4 billion targeted financial source mobilised at EU level, has been central to the swift set-up of national Youth Guarantee schemes and has provided direct support to over 1.4 million young NEETs living in those regions most in need. The 30% increase by the Commission in advance payments of the Initiative in 2015 to the eligible Member States - amounting to around €1 billion - played a significant role to provide readily available cash liquidity, allowing to speed up the launch of measures on the ground. Given this progress, the Commission has recently proposed to extend the budget resources of the Youth Employment Initiative and provide an additional €1 billion to the YEI specific budget allocation, matched by €1 billion from the European Social Fund. These €2 billion could make it possible to support around 1 million more young people until 2020 in the Member States most affected by youth unemployment. These measures come on top of financial allocations available under the ESF. The Communication



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today underlines the need to accelerate and broaden the Youth Guarantee, and to speed up the implementation of the YEI. It recognises that more efforts need to be made to support "hard-to-reach" young people: youngsters who are not registered with the public employment services, are low-skilled, have dropped out of school, and face multiple barriers to entering the labour markets (such as poverty, social exclusion, disability and discrimination). In parallel, the quality of the offers and services provided to young people can be improved.

### Background

The Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative were adopted in 2013 to support Member States' efforts to fight youth unemployment and are part of a broader policy agenda geared towards the inclusion of young people in society. As President **Juncker** stated in his State of the Union on 14 September 2016: *"I cannot and will not accept that Europe is and remains the continent of youth unemployment. I cannot and will not accept that the millennials, Generation Y, might be the first generation in 70 years to be poorer than their parents.[...] We will continue to roll out the Youth Guarantee across Europe, improving the skillset of Europeans and reaching out to the regions and young people most in need."* As identified in the 2016 Letter of Intent, the Commission intends to step up its efforts in support of youth more generally, and the Youth Guarantee instruments should play their full role as part of a broader set of youth initiatives. For instance, the establishment of



a European Solidarity Corps was announced by President Juncker during his State of the Union speech on 14 September 2016. The Corps will be rooted in the core EU values of engagement and solidarity and will offer socially-minded young people under 30, benefitting from the Youth Guarantee or not, the opportunity to help and support others and acquire new skills and experience,

either in their home country or in another Member State. The Commission will present its ideas by the end of the year. The Youth Guarantee Recommendation was adopted by the EU's Council of Ministers on 22 April 2013 on the basis of a proposal made by the Commission in December 2012 and was endorsed by the June 2013 European Council. All 28 Member States have submitted Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans and have taken action to set up their Youth Guarantee schemes. These Plans identify steps to be taken to implement the Youth Guarantee, outlining the timeframe for key reforms and measures, the roles of public authorities and other partners, and how it will be financed (details available [here](#)). Implementation of national Youth Guarantee schemes is monitored by the Commission within the framework of the European Semester. The Youth Employment Initiative was launched in 2013 to provide targeted support to young people aged below 25 and living in regions where youth unemployment was higher than 25% in 2012. The YEI is one of the main EU financial resources to support the implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes. Currently 20 MS are eligible for YEI support. The YEI was initially created as a €6.4 billion dedicated resource to be spent during 2014-18. In the context of the mid-term review of the EU 2014-20 budget, the Commission proposed to further boost the YEI specific allocation by an additional €1 billion, matched by €1 billion from the European Social Fund, thus a €2 billion overall increase in YEI resources until 2020, which brings them to €8.4 billion since the launch of the Initiative in 2013. Next to that, thanks to increased cohesion policy allocations as from 2017, several YEI-eligible Member States will have the possibility to invest up to €2 billion more of ESF funding in youth employment measures. The YEI is complementary to other actions undertaken at national level, including those with ESF support. The ESF can reach out beyond individuals and can help reform employment, education and training institutions and services. The ESF 2014-20 invests €6.3 billion directly in youth employment measures and around €27 billion in education measures and reforms. In 2013, EU Heads of State or Government called on the Commission to 'report in 2016 on the implementation of the "Youth Guarantee" and on the operation of the YEI, which this Communication follows up on.

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## 7. Paris Agreement to enter into force as EU agrees ratification

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**The European Parliament has approved the ratification of the Paris Agreement by the European Union.**

With European Parliament approval of the Paris Agreement ratification – in the presence of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, the United Nation's Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the President of COP 21 Ségolène Royal – the last hurdle is cleared. The political process for the European Union to ratify the Agreement is concluded. President **Jean-Claude Juncker** in his State of the Union Speech on 14 September called for a swift ratification of the agreement. He said: *"Slow delivery on promises made is a phenomenon that more and more risks undermining the Union's credibility. Take the Paris agreement. We Europeans are the world leaders on climate action. It was Europe that brokered the first-ever legally binding, global climate deal. It was Europe that built the coalition of ambition that made agreement in Paris possible. I call on all Member States and on this Parliament to do your part in the next weeks, not months. We should be faster."* President **Jean-**

**Claude Juncker** said: *"The European Union turned climate ambition into climate action. The Paris Agreement is the first of its kind and it would not have been possible were it not for the European Union. We continued to show leadership and prove that, together, the European Union can deliver."* The Vice-President for Energy Union **Maroš Šefčovič** said: *"The European parliament has heard the voice of its people. The European Union is already implementing its own commitments to the Paris Agreement but swift ratification triggers its implementation in the rest of the world."* Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy **Miguel Arias Cañete** said: *"Our collective task is to turn our commitments into action on the ground. And here Europe is ahead of the curve. We have the policies and tools to meet our targets, steer the global clean energy transition and modernise our economy. The world is moving and Europe is in a driver's seat, confident and proud of leading the work to tackle climate change".* So far, 62 parties, accounting for almost 52 % of global emissions have ratified the Paris Agreement. The Agreement will enter into force 30 days after at least 55 parties, representing at least 55% of global emissions have ratified. The EU ratification and deposit will cross the 55% emission threshold and therefore trigger the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. The EU, which played a decisive role in building the coalition of ambition making the adoption of the Paris Agreement possible last December, is a global leader on climate action. The European Commission has already brought forward the legislative proposals to deliver on the EU's commitment to reduce emissions in the European Union by at least 40% by 2030.



**Next steps**  
With approval by the European Parliament, the Council can formally adopt the Decision. In parallel the EU Member States will ratify the Paris Agreement individually, in accordance with their national parliamentary processes.

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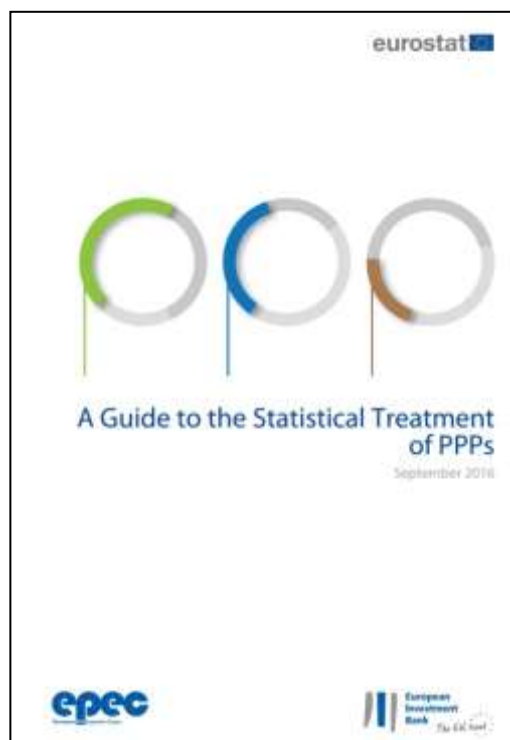
## 8. Guidance paper on the Eurostat treatment of PPPs

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**EU-Commissioner Marianne Thyssen and Vice-President Jan Vapaavuori of the European Investment Bank (EIB) have presented a new Guide to the Statistical Treatment of Public Private Partnerships in Brussels.**

The guide is a joint effort of Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Commission) and the European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC) of the EIB. Investment is a key priority for the Commission. This is why just weeks into office, the European Commission, with the EIB as its strategic partner, launched [the Investment Plan for Europe](#) in November 2014. The aim of the Plan is to support economic recovery by stimulating investment in the real economy. The Investment Plan for Europe uses public investments and guarantees to engage private capital and expertise. Public-Private

Partnerships, PPPs, are expected to play an important role in getting Europe's investment in infrastructure back on track. The public sector's decision to procure projects as PPPs, however, is often influenced by expectations as to their statistical treatment (i.e. impact on government debt and deficit figures). Uncertainty in how to assess the statistical treatment of PPPs can therefore create difficulties and delays in the various stages of preparation and implementation of investment projects. While the Guide does not change the rules used by Eurostat in classifying PPPs, it analyses the most common features of current PPP contracts in the light of these rules and gives a clear overview of their potential impact on Government finances. The guide will help Member States and other PPP stakeholders to better understand the impact that the features of PPP contracts have on government balance sheets and will assist public authorities in taking well-informed decisions when preparing and procuring their PPPs. This Guide is also a helpful tool to provide clarity to public



and private promoters in the context of the investment plan and remove perceived barriers to investment. Technical assistance facilities like the European Investment Advisory Hub set-up by the EIB and the Commission would use it to assist in any potential request. *"Eurostat's rules on PPPs had become a hot topic, in particular in the context of the Investment Plan for Europe", said Jan Vapaavuori, EIB Vice-President responsible for Advisory Services, "I am confident that the Guide will considerably help public authorities prepare projects with more confidence, using the opportunities offered by sound PPPs to mobilise private capital and expertise and ultimately generating more investment on the ground to improve citizens' lives."* **Marianne Thyssen**, Commissioner responsible for Eurostat: said *"I am very pleased to launch this new "Guide to the Statistical Treatment of PPPs". It is aimed at all stakeholders – both public and private sector – involved in commissioning, financing and undertaking PPPs, and it will assist both public and private authorities in taking well-informed decisions when using PPPs, with a clear understanding of their impact on Government balance sheets. I hope this new Guide will facilitate project promoters considering applying for EFSI support under the Investment Plan."* According to

data collected by EPEC, over the last five years 345 new PPP projects were closed in 16 EU Member States, for the total value of over EUR 65 billion. Over this period, the two most active PPP markets in the EU were the UK (with 124 deals worth over EUR 23 billion) and France (with 75 projects worth over EUR 18 billion). The full guide is available for download [here](#).

#### **Background Information:**

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** is the long-term lending institution of the European Union owned by its Member States. It makes long-term finance available for sound investment in order to contribute towards EU policy goals. **Eurostat** is the Directorate-General of the European Commission providing statistical information to the institutions of the European Union (EU) and promoting the harmonisation of statistical methods across its member states. The organisations in the different countries which actively cooperate with Eurostat are summarised under the concept of the European Statistical System. **The European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC)** is part of the Advisory Services of the European Investment Bank (EIB). It is an initiative that also involves the European Commission, Member States of the EU, Candidate States and certain other states. Its aim is to help the public sector engage in better PPPs. For more information visit [www.eib.org/epec](http://www.eib.org/epec). The **Investment Plan for Europe** focuses on strengthening European investments to create jobs and growth. It does so by making smarter use of new and existing financial resources, removing obstacles to investment, providing visibility and technical assistance to investment projects. The Investment Plan is already showing results. The European Investment Bank (EIB) estimates that by July 2016, the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) triggered more than EUR 127.2 billion of investment in Europe. Building on this success, the European Commission [on 14 September 2016](#) proposed extending the EFSI by increasing its firepower and duration as well as reinforcing its strengths. Find the latest EFSI figures including a break-down by sector and by country [here](#). For more information see the [FAQs](#).

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## 9. Transparency Register for all EU institutions

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**The European Commission proposing a mandatory Transparency Register covering all three EU institutions – the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission - delivering on a key transparency commitment of the Juncker Commission.**

The Commission has already led by example in making meetings with its decision-makers conditional upon interest representatives being publicly listed in a Transparency Register. We are calling on the European Parliament and Council to follow suit, making the Register mandatory for any interest representatives trying to influence policy-making in Brussels. First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: *"The EU institutions need to work together to win back the trust of our citizens. We must be more open in everything we do. The proposals for a mandatory transparency register covering the Parliament, Council and Commission are an important step in the right direction. Citizens have the right to know who tries to influence EU law-making. We propose a simple rule: no meeting with decision-makers without prior registration. Through the Register, the public will see who is lobbying, who they represent and how much they spend."* The Commission has proposed an Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) which will put in place a robust system ensuring the transparency of lobbying activities, building on the existing voluntary Transparency Register of

the Parliament and the Commission. The Commission is proposing that all three institutions – including the Council - be subject to the same minimum standards for the first time. Under these proposals, meetings with decision-makers from the three institutions would become conditional on prior registration in the Transparency Register. Since the Commission introduced this rule for its own interactions with interest



representatives in November 2014, there were around 4,000 new entries in the existing Register. The proposal also clarifies the scope of activities and bodies covered, bolsters the monitoring and effective enforcement of the Register's Code of Conduct for lobbyists and will simplify and improve the quality of data through streamlined input requirements and increased quality control. The Commission proposes to increase the resources available to achieve this objective. Registrants who fail to comply with the Code of Conduct could face temporary suspension of their interactions with the institutions or removal from the Register.

### **Background**

The proposed changes to the Transparency Register are part of a broader commitment to reforming EU policy making by the Juncker Commission. The proposal follows intensive discussions carried out with all relevant stakeholders. A 12-week public consultation, concluded on 1 June, receiving 1,758 replies, with 975 responses from individual citizens and 783 from organisations. Respondents shared their views on the functioning of the current Transparency Register and put forward suggestions for the design of the future regime. The Juncker Commissions' commitment to greater transparency, set out in the Political Guidelines, has already been put into practice in several ways. Since 1 December 2014, the Commission has published information on meetings of Commissioners, their Cabinet Members and Commission Directors-General with all interest representatives. As a rule, these meetings should only take place with persons or entities which are present in the Transparency Register. Greater access has also been given to documents relating to the negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the United States. The Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-making signed in April further bolstered transparency by adopting a series of measures to enhance the openness of the EU decision-making process, including secondary legislation. In May 2016 the Commission adopted [new rules on expert groups](#) reinforcing transparency requirements and introducing synergies with the Transparency Register. In its Better Regulation Agenda presented in May 2015, the Commission committed to open up its policy-making process to further public scrutiny and input. New stakeholder feedback mechanisms have already been set up, giving the possibility to make views known to the Commission from the very start of the preparation of an initiative on the basis of roadmaps and inception impact assessments, as well as after a proposal is adopted by the Commission, in order to feed into the legislative process in the Parliament and Council. The Transparency Register is one of

the key tools for implementing the Commission's commitment to transparency. It covers all activities carried out with the objective of influencing the law-making and policy implementation processes of the EU institutions. A first Transparency Register was established jointly by the European Parliament and the Commission in 2011; it was updated through an Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) agreed in April 2014 and currently applies only to the two institutions. The current voluntary Register includes over 9,800 entities bound by the Code of Conduct. Registrants range from public affairs consultancies and law firms to trade and professional associations, NGOs, religious organisations and academic organisations.

## 10. High Level Group monitoring simplification for beneficiaries of ESI Funds

**In line with the initiative "EU budget focused on results" and with the efforts for Better Regulation, the Commission is taking stock of the work conducted by the High Level Group on Simplification for the beneficiaries of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds).**

Red tape can be a deterrent for small businesses and start-ups; they might sometimes give up on the opportunities offered by [the ESI Funds](#) because of the administrative procedures. It means precious potential for improving Europe's competitiveness is left untapped. This is why a year ago the Commission launched a [High Level Group on Simplification](#) to find solutions and facilitate access to the European Structural and Investment Funds for businesses. So far the Group has issued a [set of recommendations](#) in four areas: Online procedures; Simpler ways to reimburse expenditure; Easier access to funding for SMEs; Increased uptake of financial instruments. At the end of 2016, the Group will focus on tackling the issue of 'gold-plating', i.e. the additional administrative requirements imposed on beneficiaries by national or local authorities. Commissioner for Regional Policy **Corina Creţu** said: "*Simplicity and flexibility are key to ensuring the success of ESI Funds investments in Europe. We need to help innovative and quality projects see the light of day by making access to the funds easier for small businesses and start-ups. In addition, the recommendations of the Group are also directly feeding into our reflection on the future of Cohesion Policy after 2020.*"



*Former Commission Vice-President and chairman of the High-Level Group **Siim Kallas** commented: "Efforts must continue to remove bottlenecks and ensure synergies between the Funds. It is not always necessary to change regulations; best practices have to be identified and promoted throughout the EU. And this is what we aim to do."*

President and chairman of the High-Level Group **Siim Kallas** commented: "*Efforts must continue to remove bottlenecks and ensure synergies between the Funds. It is not always necessary to change regulations; best practices have to be identified and promoted throughout the EU. And this is what we aim to do.*"

- Some of the Group's recommendations have already been included in the Commission's mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework. These include:
- Simpler ways to reimburse expenditure; for example, beneficiaries would no longer have to justify every single cost item but can use flat rates or fixed prices for certain categories of costs, including staff or other business expenses such as insurance or rent;
- Promotion of the "once only" principle; documents provided by the beneficiaries should be kept in digital form and would not have to be reproduced at each step of the implementation of the project;
- Promotion of synergies and best practices, such as single calls for proposals, which could bring together different EU funding streams. It would allow SMEs to apply for one investment package rather than for multiple calls;
- Alignment of the requirements for entrepreneurs who receive loans from financial instruments supported by ESI Funds as much as possible with market practice. This would mean that these requirements are lighter than the requirements for normal grants, for example, fewer documents would be needed, retention periods for documents would be shorter.

Building on the recommendations of the Group, the Commission also proposed to make combinations with the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) easier, with only one set of procedures for the applicant instead of separate rules for each Fund.

### Background

The High Level Group on simplification for beneficiaries of the European Structural and investment (ESI) Funds was set up by the European Commission following the decision of 10 July 2015. It began its work in October 2015. This group of 12 experts advises the European Commission on how to reduce the administrative burden for applicants to the five Funds. The ESI Funds Regulation for 2014-2020 already offers a range of opportunities for simplification and reduced administrative burden. These include a set of common rules for all ESI Funds, the extended use of simplified costs options and the move towards e-cohesion. The Group also monitors the uptake of these opportunities by the Member States. The final report of the High Level Group, which is to be expected in 2018, will be one of the cornerstones of the Commission's reflection on the future of Cohesion Policy.

## 11. EU Prize for Women Innovators 2017

Europe urgently needs more innovators to stay competitive in the coming decades and to spur economic growth. The large number of well-educated women who, for various reasons, including lack of awareness, do not consider entrepreneurship as an option, represents a tremendous untapped pool of innovation. Awards have a strong potential to drive innovation through the recognition of achievements and the promotion of role models. Therefore, the European Commission created in 2011 a Prize for Women Innovators to increase public awareness of this issue and to encourage women to exploit the commercial and business opportunities and become entrepreneurs.

After the success of the forerunners of the contest in 2011, 2014 and 2016, the Commission intends to continue its drive to spotlight women researchers who have brought outstanding innovations to the market. The Commission plans to award up to three "EU Prize for Women Innovators" and one "Rising Innovator Award" following a European-wide contest. The prizes are addressed to women who have founded or co-founded a company and who themselves or their company have benefitted from funding related to research and/or innovation.

**Expected results:** Although women are more and more active in research, there are still too few women creating innovative enterprises. This represents an untapped potential for Europe which needs all resources to remain competitive and find solutions to our societal challenges. The prizes will boost the public awareness of the, potential, importance and contribution of women researchers to entrepreneurship and will encourage entrepreneurial women to become innovators. This will help to achieve the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. All eligible applications will be evaluated by a High level jury:

**The prize will be awarded, after closure of the contest, to the contestant(s) who in the opinion of the jury best addresses the following cumulative criteria :**

1. The originality and marketability of the developed product or service provided by the company of the contestant. Applications will be compared according to the number of patents/co-patents and trademarks.
2. The economic impact - The economic impact of a product or service of the company for Europe is measured by the number of countries (inside and outside the EU) where the product or service is sold, and by the size of the turnover achieved with this service or product in 2014 and 2015.
3. The societal impact - the societal impact of a product or service of the company for Europe. It will be measured by the number of jobs created and the potential of the service or product to help Europe address a grand societal challenges e.g. the ageing of the European population, global warming, clean water, renewable energy and resource efficiency.
4. The impact and leadership role of the contestant. Contestants must explain how their role in the company influenced the success of the company and contestants should outline their potential to empower other women to be leaders and entrepreneurs.

To participate you must register on the contest [website](#) by November 3, 2016.



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## 12. Gaetano Cozzi award for essays on the history of games

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As part of its research programme started in 1987 on **games, festive events, sports and leisure activities in general up to the outbreak of World War II**, the Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche has launched, as of 2016, two annual awards of 3,000 Euros each for young scholars doing original



work in this field. Although a recent initiative, the awards continue in the tradition of the Foundation, which over thirty years has assigned more than 70 scholarships to graduates over a broad range of academic levels. Started in 1988 in memory of Stefano Benetton, the scholarships were, from 2001 to 2015, dedicated to Gaetano Cozzi, the illustrious scholar, Selection board chairman until

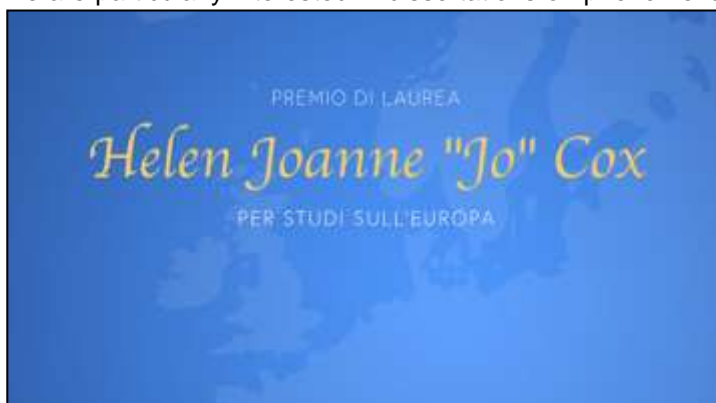
2000, and driving force behind the initiative until his death in 2001. The award for unpublished essays is also dedicated to the memory of Gaetano Cozzi. Chaired by Gherardo Ortalli, the Selection board is made up of directors of the journal «[Ludica. Annali di storia e civiltà del gioco](#)». Information on the scholarships is available both on this website and at the Foundation's Documentation centre. Submissions must be sent in electronic format to Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche at: [pubblicazioni@fbsr.it](mailto:pubblicazioni@fbsr.it), no later than **31st December 2016**. The regulations governing the award for unpublished essays are available in pdf format in different languages on this same [site](#).

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## 13. Helen Joanne "Jo" Cox award for European Studies

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The Italian association iMille has established an undergraduate degree award (1500 EUR) for European studies named after Helen Joanne "Jo" Cox, the young British MP killed in an attack before Brexit. iMille aim at recalling Jo Cox effort for the UK to remain in the EU and at rewarding a student whose undergraduate dissertation illustrates the economic, political and social benefits of European integration. The topics of the awarded dissertation will be economic, political or social, with a clear emphasis on European issues. We are particularly interested in dissertations on phenomena and problems that hinder European integration and on policies aimed at removing such great obstacles. Nominations can be submitted by undergraduates who expect to obtain the degree within six months, or who obtained the degree in the last twelve months. The award will be conferred to a student of an Italian university, in economics, political science, law, history or related subjects. It can also be conferred to a student of a university of any of the current twenty-eight EU countries who joined



an Erasmus programme at an Italian university. The award is open to EU citizens. The dissertation can be in Italian or in English. Candidates should submit the dissertation and a detailed curriculum vitae in electronic format (pdf) to [premiocox@gmail.com](mailto:premiocox@gmail.com) by **November 30, 2016**. If the dissertation is in Italian, candidates should also attach a dissertation summary in English no longer than two pages. A scientific committee comprising academics, representatives of institutions and public policy experts will select and propose the best dissertation to the editorial board of iMille policy magazine by December 31. The award will be conferred during an event in Rome in early 2017. For any question, please contact [premiocox@gmail.com](mailto:premiocox@gmail.com). For more information, please consult the following [lmille.org](http://lmille.org).

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## 14. Internship at the Free Software Foundation Europe in Berlin

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FSFE is a charity dedicated to empowering users to control technology. We are working to build freedom in digital society. We operate in a lively environment of numerous volunteers from many countries and several full-time employees. FSFE is looking for smart, motivated interns to join our team.



**We offer:** A truly challenging and exciting time with a dynamic NGO working internationally; A close-up view of organisational and community processes; A chance to take the initiative and put your ideas into practice; The opportunity to meet and work with Free Software advocates across Europe. **What you'll do:** Contribute to [FSFE's ongoing projects](#), working with one or more of our staff and volunteers. Communicate with contacts from the FSFE community, NGO, industry,

and public administrations. Coordinate volunteers and others in the work on various projects. General office tasks. Find your own strengths, and do something you care about. Other tasks outlined in the job description when an opening is announced. **Basic internship facts:** When an internship opening is announced (primarily in our [newsletter](#)), you will find more details about each specific internship there. Sometimes we offer longer internships, and other times we seek applicants with a specific focus (for instance students for summer internships). **Duration:** 3 months, full-time.

**Location:** Berlin, Germany. **Compensation:** Interns receive a basic compensation, the amount of which is announced when an opening is announced. **Requirement:** The internship is open to EU citizens, and anyone else holding a residence permit and a work permit for Germany. **Who we're looking for:** FSFE interns are a pretty diverse bunch. If you are interested in working on the frontline of technology policy and activism, then you've come to the right place. You're fired up about a free information society, and you've already done something to tell others why freedom matters? Then this internship is for you. Your academic background and qualifications matter less than your experience, your will to learn, and your ability to get things done. **We expect:**

- Solid basic knowledge of, and considerable interest in, Free Software (required).
- Fluent English (written and spoken) is a requirement; a working knowledge of other languages is an asset.
- Basic acquaintance with working on GNU/Linux systems (desirable).
- Ability to be creative, responsible, and to multitask.
- Ability to integrate into a young, motivated and professional team.
- No programming skills required. Programming is one of the few things you probably *won't* be doing during your internship, unless you're applying for a technical internship.
- We want more women to be involved in Free Software. That's why we will give preference to applications from suitably qualified female candidates.

**Currently open positions:** [Technical intern](#) (apply by 1st of November 2016). Each application must include, in English: The reference number of the opening for which you're applying; A letter of motivation; A CV; References. We do not generally accept unsolicited applications, but you can contact us at [office@fsfe.org](mailto:office@fsfe.org). Please [do not send any documents in Microsoft Word document format](#). We won't read them. Best use PDF instead.

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## 15. First meeting in France of EuroYouth project MEDIALAB

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In the period 22-25 September 2016, was held in Nice in France the first meeting of the EuroYouth MEDIALAB project. The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus KA2 program. The partner countries are: Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain, Finland, France (coordinating country), Poland, Slovakia, Northern Ireland (UK), Sweden and Italy. The purpose of the project is to develop and realize media workshops with local youth groups to talk about Europe and the problems that afflict the Union today. At the meeting participated one delegate from our organisation.



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## 16. SPAHCO: first meeting in Spain

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From 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October will be held the first meeting of the project "SPAHCO" in Spain. The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program. At the meeting will participate a delegate in our organization. More information on the activities will be posted on our next newsletter of 20/12/2016

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## 17. Course "Technology for creative thinking" in Malta

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In the period 18-27 October is in realisation the course "Technology for creative thinking" approved under the Erasmus + program KA1. The youth course is realized in Dingli, Villa Psaison in Malta and is hosted by Cross Culture International Foundation. The course involved three young people from our association. More information on activities will be posted on our next newsletter.



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## 18. Concluded the meeting in Cyprus for the project "THE SUITCASE"

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The project "The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker" (developed in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme by a partnership composed by Predict CSD Consulting - Romania, Millennium Center youth organization - Romania, "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad - Romania, SC Schultz development SRL - Romania, Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service - UK; Asociacion Cultural Integra - Spain; Organization for Promotion of European Issues - Cyprus; Fundacja Centrum Aktywnosci Tworzej - Poland and Euro-Net - Italy) is now working on test of the platform to be used to support young people. In the period 2-5 September was held the third meeting scheduled in the project in Cyprus where the partners met to define the steps of all intellectual output envisaged in the project.



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## 19. Concluded the APV of "Communication bridges for Young People"

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In the period 13-15 October, took place in Athens the advance preliminary visit of the exchange project "Communication bridges for Young People", that was approved under the Erasmus + KA1 project. At the APV participated on behalf of our organization the teacher Erika Marcantonio. The project purpose was to learn about the host organization, visit the facilities and then plan activities that kids are going to realise during the exchange planned in the period 20-27 November 2016 and to be attended by 4 young people 18-30 years and 1 leader. More information on the activities will be posted on our next newsletter



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## 20. Concluded the second phase of the project in Albania

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From 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Septembre 2016 in Vlora in Albania was realised the second phase of the "New Born Memory" project. This exchange is the continuation of the meeting realized in the period 23-30 May. The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus Capacity Building program. The first meeting was attended by four young animators / youth leaders over 22.

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## 22. AGM EDIC in Madrid

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Every year the Europe Direct network meets to review their work programs for the following year: this year the AGM (Annual General Meeting) was realised in Madrid (Spain) in the period 17-19 October. This year the topics addressed at the European level were: efficiency in working together, the prospects of the network, the communication priorities, action plans for 2017. Were also organized many and special working groups. The meeting was attended by a representative of each office Europe Direct to permit to compare the activities and objectives in an European context.



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## 23. NEFELE Festival in Greece

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The festival in Greece scheduled in the project "NEFELE - Networking European Festivals For Mental Life Enhancement" (action n. 559274-CREATE-1-2015-1-ELCULT-COOP1) was approved and funded

by the European Union under the European program "Creative Europe", which aims to promote and safeguard linguistic and cultural diversity; strengthen the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sector to develop an intelligent economic growth, sustainable and inclusive growth, while, as specific objectives, intends to support the capacity of the cultural sector and creative European operate transnationally; promote the transnational circulation of cultural and creative works and cultural operators; strengthen the financial capacity of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular of SMEs; support transnational policy cooperation in order to promote innovation, development policy, audience building & new business models. All interested parties may also follow this initiative on the Facebook profile by placing the "Like" at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/nefeleproject/>

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## 24. Gender Portrayal Through Media: concluded meeting in Durres in Albania

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Was held in the period 12-19 October, in Durres in Albania, the meeting of the project "Gender Portrays through Media". The project was approved by the European Commission under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Capacity Building program. The meeting was attended by 3 youngsters of our association under 30 years old.



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## 25. National EDIC meeting in Caserta and Salerno

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In the coming days will be held in Caserta and Salerno, a two-day study of direct European issues to the European communication operators for 2017 and a joint seminar on the strengthening of cooperation between them. At the seminar will participate one delegate from our organisation.