



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA centre
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Bimonthly newsletter:

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

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1. Commission welcomes Parliament's support of trade deal with Canada

CETA marks the beginning of a new era in the EU-Canada relationship.

The European Parliament voted in favour of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada, concluding the ratification process of this deal at the EU level. Welcoming the outcome of the vote held in Strasbourg, President **Jean-Claude Juncker** said: *"This vote by the European Parliament is an important milestone in the democratic process of ratification of the agreement reached with Canada and it also allows for its provisional entry into force. As a result, EU companies and citizens will start to reap the benefits that the agreement offers as soon as possible. This trade deal has been subject to an in-depth parliamentary scrutiny which reflects the increased interest of citizens in trade policy. The intense exchanges on CETA throughout this process are testimony to the democratic nature of European decision making. This progressive agreement is an opportunity to shape globalisation together and influence the setting of global trade rules. The best example of this is the work that we are already doing with our Canadian friends to establish multilateral rules to deal with investment issues. I now call on all Member States to conduct an inclusive and thorough discussion at national level with the relevant stakeholders in the context of the national ratification process of the agreement"*.



Trade Commissioner **Cecilia Malmström** said: *"This vote is the start of a new era in EU-Canada relations - together we are sending a strong signal today. By building bridges rather than walls, we can face the challenges that confront our societies together. In these uncertain times, with rising protectionism around the world, CETA underlines our strong commitment to sustainable trade. Canada is a close ally of Europe. We share values and ideals, and a commitment to open markets and fair social policies. Canada is an important economic partner, with yearly trade between us worth nearly a 100 billion euros*. Once the Canadian parliament has ratified this agreement, the next step is to put it provisionally in place, which I hope can be done swiftly and effectively. Citizens and companies on both sides of the Atlantic should start reaping these benefits very soon."*

What will CETA do?

CETA creates new opportunities for EU companies. It will save EU businesses over €500 million a year currently paid in tariffs on goods that are exported to Canada. Almost 99% of these savings start from day one. It will give EU companies the best access they've ever had to Canadian public procurement contracts, including at provincial level (as well as federal and municipal). The agreement will overwhelmingly benefit smaller companies who can least afford the cost of red tape. Small businesses will save time and money, for example by avoiding duplicative testing requirements, lengthy customs procedures and costly legal fees. CETA will create new opportunities for farmers and food producers, while fully protecting the sensitivities of the EU. The EU's openings on certain products are limited and calibrated and are balanced out by Canadian openings that satisfy important European exporting interests, such as cheese, wine and spirits, fruit and vegetables, processed products and the protection of 143 high quality European products (so-called "geographical indications") on the Canadian market. The EU's 500 million consumers will also benefit from CETA. The agreement offers greater choice while upholding European standards, as only products and services that fully respect all EU regulations will be able to enter the EU market. This means that CETA will not change the way the EU regulates food safety, including GMO products or the ban on hormone-treated beef. The agreement will give better legal certainty in the service economy, better mobility for company employees, and a framework to enable recognition of professional qualifications, from architects to crane operators. The current form of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) that exists in many bilateral trade agreements negotiated by EU governments has been replaced with a new and improved Investment Court System. The new mechanism will be transparent and not based on ad hoc tribunals. Member States will continue to be able to organise public services as they wish. This and other issues have been further clarified in a Joint Interpretative Instrument that will have legal force and that clearly and unambiguously outlines what Canada and the European Union have agreed in a number of CETA articles.

Background and next steps

On 30 October, the EU and Canada signed the trade agreement and the European Parliament gave its consent. This paves the way for CETA to enter into force provisionally, once it has also been

ratified on the Canadian side. CETA will be fully implemented once the parliaments in all Member States ratify the deal according to their respective domestic constitutional requirements. There is clear proof that free trade agreements spur European growth and jobs. As an example, EU exports to South Korea have increased by more than 55% since the EU-Korea trade deal entered into force in 2011. Exports of certain agricultural products increased by 70%, and EU car sales in South Korea tripled over this five-year period. The Korea agreement was also provisionally applied during its ratification process. On average, each additional €1 billion of exports supports 15.000 jobs in the EU. 31 million jobs in Europe depend on exports.

2. Commission publishes Winter Economic Forecast

All EU Member States' economies set to grow in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Having proven resilient to global challenges last year, the European economic recovery is expected to continue this year and next: for the first time in almost a decade, the economies of all EU Member States are expected to grow throughout the entire forecasting period (2016, 2017 and 2018). However, the outlook is surrounded by higher-than-usual uncertainty. Real GDP in the euro area has grown for 15 consecutive quarters, employment is growing at a robust pace and unemployment continues to fall, although it remains above pre-crisis levels. Private consumption is still the engine of the recovery. Investment growth continues but remains subdued. In its [Winter Forecast released](#), the European Commission expects euro area GDP growth of 1.6% in 2017 and 1.8% in 2018. This

is slightly revised up from the Autumn Forecast (2017: 1.5%, 2018: 1.7%) on the back of better-than-expected performance in the second half of 2016 and a rather robust start into 2017. GDP growth in the EU as a whole should follow a similar pattern and is forecast at 1.8% this year and next (Autumn Forecast: 2017: 1.6%, 2018: 1.8%). Risks surrounding these projections are exceptionally large and although both upside and downside risks have increased,



the overall balance remains tilted to the downside. **Valdis Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, said: *"The economic recovery in Europe continues for the fifth consecutive year. In these uncertain times, however, it is important that European economies stay competitive and able to adapt to changing circumstances. This requires continued structural reform effort. We also need to focus on inclusive growth, ensuring that the recovery is felt by all. With inflation picking up from low levels, we cannot expect current monetary stimulus to last forever. Therefore countries with high deficit and debt levels should continue bringing them down to become more resilient to economic shocks."* **Pierre Moscovici**, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, said: *"The European economy has proven resilient to the numerous shocks it has experienced over the past year. Growth is holding up and unemployment and deficits are heading lower. Yet with uncertainty at such high levels, it's more important than ever that we use all policy tools to support growth. Above all, we must ensure that its benefits are felt in all parts of the euro area and all segments of society."*

The global recovery is expected to gain momentum

Growth prospects for advanced economies outside the EU have improved over recent months, largely due to expectations of fiscal stimulus in the United States, which have resulted in higher long-term interest rates and an appreciation of the US dollar. Growth in emerging market economies is also set to firm up to 2018, although to varying degrees across countries and regions. Overall, this could give a boost to European exports of both goods and services following a weak 2016.

Inflation to pick up

Inflation in the euro area has recently picked up as the past drop of energy prices has recently given way to an increase. Having been very low over the past two years, inflation is now set to reach higher levels this year and next, though still short of the target of "below, but close to 2% over the medium term" defined as price stability. Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food

prices, is set to rise only gradually. Overall, inflation in the euro area is expected to increase from 0.2% in 2016 to 1.7% in 2017 and 1.4% in 2018. In the EU, inflation is forecast to rise from 0.3% in 2016 to 1.8% in 2017 and 1.7% in 2018.

Domestic demand to remain the backbone of economic growth

Private consumption is set to remain the main growth driver, supported by sustained improvements in employment and a rise in nominal wage growth. However, with inflation rising and limiting the growth of household purchasing power this year and next, private consumption growth is expected to slow. Investment is set to continue growing but only moderately, supported by a number of factors such as very low financing costs and strengthening global activity. Projects financed under the [Investment Plan for Europe](#) should increasingly support private and public investment as they move from approval to implementation. Overall, investment in the euro area is forecast to grow by 2.9% this year and by 3.4% in 2018 (2.9% and 3.1% in the EU), up 8.2% by now since the start of the recovery in early 2013. However, the share of investment in GDP remains below its value at the turn of the century (20% in 2016 compared to 22% in 2000-2005). This persistent weakness in investment casts doubt over the sustainability of the recovery and the economy's potential growth.

Further employment growth helps to lower unemployment

The economic recovery continues to have strong positive effects on labour markets, following extensive structural reforms in several Member States. Employment growth is projected to remain relatively solid, albeit slightly less dynamic in 2017 and 2018 than last year. The unemployment rate in the euro area is forecast to decline further, from 10.0% in 2016 to 9.6% this year and 9.1% in 2018. In the EU as a whole, unemployment is expected to fall from 8.5% in 2016 to 8.1% this year and to 7.8% in 2018. These are the lowest unemployment figures since 2009 but remain above pre-crisis levels.

Sovereign debt and public deficits decline

The aggregate euro area public deficit and the government debt-to-GDP ratio are expected to fall further in 2017 and 2018. The public deficit for the euro area is expected to decline from 1.7% of GDP last year to 1.4% in 2017 and 2018. This decline reflects lower interest spending due to exceptionally low interest rates. It also reflects further improvements in the labour market: more people are paying taxes and contributions, and fewer are receiving social transfers. The debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to diminish gradually from 91.5% in 2016 to 90.4% in 2017 and 89.2% in 2018.



All Member States' economies expand

For the first time since 2008, the Commission's forecast points to economic growth across all EU Member States for the entire forecasting period (2016, 2017, 2018). Even those Member States most hit during the recession are also expected to have returned to growth last year. The impact of the US dollar's appreciation and higher long-term interest rates could, however, increase the differences in growth rates among Member States.

Exceptional risks surrounding the winter forecast

The particularly high uncertainty surrounding this Winter Forecast is due to the still-to-be-clarified intentions of the new administration of the United States in key policy areas, as well as the numerous elections to be held in Europe this year and the upcoming "Article 50" negotiations with the UK. The balance of risks remains on the downside although both upside and downside risks have increased. In the short term, fiscal stimulus in the United States could have a stronger impact on growth than currently expected. In the medium term, risks to the growth outlook stem from legacies of the recent crises; the UK's vote to leave the European Union; potential disruptions to trade; faster monetary tightening in the United States, which could have a negative influence on emerging market economies; and the potential consequences of high and rising debt in China.

Background

This forecast is based on a set of external assumptions concerning exchange rates, interest rates and commodity prices with a cut-off date of 1 February 2017. The numbers used reflect market expectations derived from derivatives markets at the time of the forecast. For all other incoming data, including assumption about government policies, this forecast takes into consideration information up until and including 1 February 2017. Only policies credibly announced and specified in adequate detail are incorporated. Projections assume no policy changes.

3. More transparency and accountability in implementing EU law

The Commission proposed to amend the Comitology Regulation, increasing transparency and accountability in the procedures for implementation of EU legislation.



The Commission is delivering on President **Juncker's** pledge in his [State of the Union Speech](#) in September 2016 when he stated, "It is not right that when EU countries cannot decide among themselves whether or not to ban the use of glyphosate in herbicides, the Commission is forced by Parliament and Council to take a decision. So we will change those rules." The package of four targeted amendments will enhance transparency about the positions taken by Member States, allow for greater political guidance, and ensure more accountability in the decision-making process. The four measures proposed are:

- **changing the voting rules** at the last stage of the comitology procedure (the Appeal Committee), so that only votes in favour or against an act are taken into account; this will reduce the use of abstentions and the number of situations where the Committee is unable to take a position and the Commission is obliged to act without a clear mandate from the Member States;
- **involving national Ministers** by allowing the Commission to make a second referral to the Appeal Committee at Ministerial level if national experts do not take a position; this will ensure that sensitive decisions are discussed at the appropriate political level;
- **increasing voting transparency** at the Appeal Committee level by making public the votes of Member State representatives;
- **ensuring political input** by enabling the Commission to refer the matter to the Council of Ministers for an Opinion if the Appeal Committee is unable to take a position.

The comitology system works well for the large majority of decisions. However, in a number of high profile and sensitive cases in recent years Member States have been unable to find the necessary majorities to either vote in favour or against certain draft acts, a so-called 'no opinion' scenario. In these cases, the responsibility to take a final decision falls upon the Commission, obliging a decision to be taken without clear political backing from Member States. In 2015 and 2016, the Commission was legally obliged to adopt 17 acts which concerned the authorisation of sensitive products and substances such as glyphosate or genetically modified organisms (GMOs), despite Member States being unable to take position either in favour or against the decisions. This proposal was announced as one of the key new initiatives in the 2017 Commission Work Programme. It will now be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council.

4. Investment Plan for Europe: 55 000 small companies in Italy to benefit

The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Fondo di Garanzia per le PMI, the Italian Guarantee Fund for SMEs, have signed a second agreement to provide EUR 3.5 billion worth of financing for Italian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) under the European Commission's [COSME programme](#). This transaction benefits from the support of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the heart of the [Investment Plan for Europe](#).

This agreement was concluded by Banca del Mezzogiorno – Mediocredito Centrale, the bank that manages the Italian Guarantee Fund for SMEs on behalf of the Ministero dello sviluppo economico, the Italian Ministry of Economic Development. EIF is providing a counter-guarantee that will enable Fondo di Garanzia per le PMI to grant EUR 3.5 billion worth of financing to Italian SMEs over the next two years. 55 000 Italian SMEs are expected to benefit by gaining access to finance that would otherwise not have been available to them. European Commission Vice-President **Jyrki Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said: "Italy continues to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the EFSI. Facilitating access to the finance SMEs need to expand is a central pillar of the Investment Plan and our strategy to support jobs and boost growth. I am delighted that agreement will unlock an additional EUR 3.5 billion for thousands of Italian SMEs." Commenting on the signature, EIF Chief Executive, **Pier Luigi Gilibert**, said: "I warmly welcome this

second agreement with Fondo di Garanzia per le PMI as it demonstrates that the already existing COSME agreement has reached its full utilisation. We hope to encounter the same success with all our financial intermediaries, in order to be able to support an increasing number of SMEs across Europe. Thanks to this transaction, we will reach out to 55 000 small companies in Italy – an impressive performance.” **Carlo Sappino**, Director-General for Incentives to Enterprises of Ministero dello sviluppo economico, said: “We are very pleased that EIF and Fondo di Garanzia per le PMI are continuing this worthy cooperation under the COSME programme after the significant results yielded in the precedent period. This second agreement underlines the commitment of the Italian Government to support the access to finance of SMEs which are the backbone of the Italian economy.”

About EIF

The European Investment Fund (EIF) is part of the European Investment Bank Group. Its central mission is to support Europe's micro, small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) by helping them to access finance. EIF designs and develops venture and growth capital, guarantees and microfinance instruments which specifically target this market segment. In this role, EIF fosters EU objectives in support of innovation, research and development, entrepreneurship, growth, and employment. More information on EIF's work under EFSI is available [here](#).

About Fondo di Garanzia per le PMI

Fondo di garanzia per le PMI (the Fund) is the Italian Guarantee Fund for SMEs established by law no. 662/1996 (art. 2, paragraph 100, letter a) “in order to ensure a partial insurance to the loans granted by lenders to small and medium-sized enterprises.” It is managed by Banca del Mezzogiorno – Mediocredito Centrale S.p.A. (BdM–MCC), on behalf of the Ministero dello sviluppo economico, which, in July 2011, won the tender for its management for a period of nine years. The joint venture is made up of BdM–MCC (Poste Italiane Group), MedioCredito Italiano (Intesa Group), MPS Capital Services (MPS Group), Artigiancassa (BNL - BNP Paribas Group) and ICBPI (ICBPI Group). The Fund is entrusted to a Managing Board (the Board) chaired by seven members: two representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development, one representative of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, one representative of the Department for Development and Economic Cohesion, one representative appointed by the permanent Conference for relations between the State, regions and autonomous provinces of Trento and



Bolzano and two experts on credit and corporate finance. It guarantees any kind of financial operation aimed at supporting firm activity, of any maturity and sectors. The guarantee is backed by a State guarantee that provides zero-risk weight for the amount granted, with considerable improvement for banks' lending capacity. The guarantee is issued to banks, mutual guarantee societies and other guarantee funds providing a first demand payment guarantee.

About the Investment Plan for Europe

The Investment Plan 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 [projects and agreements](#) approved for financing under EFSI so far are expected to mobilise over EUR 168 billion in total investments across 28 Member States and to support more than 387 000 SMEs. On 14 September 2016, the European Commission proposed extending EFSI by increasing its firepower and duration as well as reinforcing its strengths. Find the latest EFSI figures by sector and by country [here](#). For more info, see the [FAQs](#).

About COSME

COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) running from 2014 to 2020 with a total budget of EUR 2.3 billion. At least 60% of the programme will be devoted to easing access to finance for SMEs in Europe, with two financial instruments. The COSME Loan Guarantee Facility supports guarantees and counter-guarantees to financial institutions to help them provide more loans and lease finance to SMEs. This facility also includes securitisation of SME debt finance portfolios. The COSME programme also invests through the COSME Equity Facility for Growth in equity funds that provide risk capital to SMEs mainly in the expansion and growth stages. The COSME programme builds on the success of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) (2007-2013) which helped to mobilise more than EUR 21 billion of loans and more than EUR 3 billion of venture capital to almost 400 000

SMEs in Europe. Businesses can contact selected financial institutions in their country to access EU financing: <http://www.access2finance.eu/>.

5. Relocation and Resettlement: Member States encouraging results

The Commission adopted its ninth progress report on the EU's emergency relocation and resettlement schemes, assessing actions taken since 8 December 2016.

During the reporting period, Member States have continued to increase their efforts on resettlement offering legal and safe pathways to 13,968 people so far. Regarding relocation, the overall positive trend has also been maintained with an additional 3,813 relocations taking place during the reporting period, and December seeing the highest monthly number so far (1,926). The total number of relocations now stands at 11,966. However, further efforts are still needed from Member States to sustain the progress made and reach the monthly targets set by the Commission of 1,000 relocations from Italy and 2,000 from Greece. Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *"The past months have seen progress in both relocation and resettlement. But for our efforts to match the scale of the challenge in both the EU frontline Member States as well as our neighbourhood, more needs to be done, and faster. Relocating all those eligible in Italy and Greece is possible but it takes political will, commitment and perseverance of all Member States to make it happen."*

Relocation

During the reporting period, 3,813 additional persons have been relocated, bringing the total number to 11,966 (8,766 from Greece and 3,200 from Italy). While December marked a new record for relocations both from Italy and Greece, with 1,926 people relocated (764 from Italy and 1,162 from Greece), in January, 1,682 persons were relocated (551 from Italy and 1,131 from Greece). In December 2016, the Commission called on Member States individually to increase their efforts to meet the targets of 1,000 monthly relocations from Italy and 2,000 from Greece. Member States and Associated Countries which were already participating actively in the relocation scheme reacted positively to the Commission's call and communicated their planned monthly pledges. Finland for



example is well on track to meet its obligation for relocations from Greece (560 out of 1,299 relocated so far) and Italy (359 out of 779). However, significantly increased commitment and delivery is still needed from other Member States, in particular those who still have not started to carry out relocations at all. The

repeated calls for accelerated and steady relocation from Greece and Italy made by the Heads of State or Government of the EU's Member States must be matched with determined action by the competent national services. Member States should build further on the results achieved so far and ensure they pledge and transfer on a stable monthly basis and according to the size of their allocation, thereby delivering on their legal obligations and applying solidarity in practice. The Commission will continue to closely monitor the situation and present its next report in March 2017.

Resettlement

Member States have continued to provide safe and legal avenues to Europe for people in need of international protection with 13,968 of the agreed 22,504 resettled so far under the EU resettlement scheme from July 2015. Since the previous report, 913 people have been resettled mainly from Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. Resettlements have taken place to 21 resettling States (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). Sweden, the United Kingdom, Finland and Netherlands as well as associated countries Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland have already fulfilled their pledges. The number of resettlements from Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement, included in the overall figure of resettlements, has continued to increase and Member States are advancing well with the preparation of further resettlement operations. Since 4 April 2016, 3,098 Syrians have been resettled from Turkey to the EU, including 487 since the previous report. The Turkish authorities are delivering on their promise to step up efforts to provide larger lists of resettlement candidates. Member States

should continue delivering on their resettlement commitments, including as part of the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.

Background

The temporary emergency relocation scheme was established in two Council Decisions in September 2015, in which Member States committed to relocate persons in need of international protection from Italy and Greece. The relocation decisions concern the commitment to relocate 98,255 people, after the Council adopted an amendment to the 2nd Council Decision on relocation on 29 September 2016 to make 54,000 places not yet allocated available for the purpose of legally admitting Syrians from Turkey to the EU. On 8 June 2015, the Commission adopted a proposal on a European Resettlement Scheme, which was followed by an agreement among the Member States on 20 July 2015 to resettle 22,504 persons in clear need of international protection. The European Council on 7 March 2016 called for an acceleration of the implementation of relocation, in order to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Greece. In its conclusions of 20 and 21 October, the European Council reiterated its call for further action to accelerate the implementation of the relocation and resettlement schemes in light of the urgent need to provide support to Greece and Italy. The European Council on 15 December endorsed the Joint Action Plan on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement, which included the relocation target for Greece of 2000 monthly transfers and reiterated its call to further intensify efforts to accelerate relocation, in particular for unaccompanied minors, and existing resettlement schemes. The EU Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016 provides that for every Syrian being returned from Turkey from the Greek islands, another Syrian will be resettled from Turkey to the EU. This principle applies as of 4 April 2016. Priority is given to migrants who have not previously entered or tried to enter the EU irregularly. The Commission on 13 July 2016 proposed a permanent EU Resettlement Framework to establish a common set of standard procedures for the selection of resettlement candidates and a common protection status for persons resettled to the EU to streamline and better focus European resettlement efforts in the future.

6. Environmental Implementation Review: new way to help Member States

Improving the application of EU rules on waste management, nature and biodiversity, air quality, water quality and management.

The Commission adopted the Environmental Implementation Review, a new tool to improve implementation of European environmental policy and commonly agreed rules. This is the beginning of a new process. The Commission will address with Member States the causes of implementation gaps and find solutions before problems become urgent. Full implementation of EU environment legislation could save the EU economy €50 billion every year in health costs and direct costs to the environment. According to Eurobarometer, 3 out of 4 citizens consider European laws necessary to protect the environment in their country, and 4 out of 5 agree that European institutions should be able to check whether the laws are being correctly applied. **Karmenu Vella**, Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, said: "*Patchy and uneven implementation of environmental rules helps no one.*

Improving how environmental laws are applied benefits citizens, public administrations and the economy. This is where the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) comes in. The European Commission is committed to helping Member States make sure that the quality of their citizens' air, water and

waste management is of the highest standard. This Review provides the information, the tools and the timetable to do this". This package includes: **28 country reports** which map national strengths, opportunities and weaknesses; a **Communication** summarising the political conclusions of the country reports and examining common trends, in areas such as air quality, waste management and the circular economy, water quality and protecting nature and biodiversity; and **recommendations** for improvements to all Member States. The Review shows that in the area of **waste management**, waste prevention remains an important challenge for all Member States, while six have not managed to limit the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste. Full compliance with EU waste policy by 2020 could create additional 400,000 jobs. Despite many local success



stories in **nature and biodiversity**, the implementation of EU nature legislation needs to be stepped up, as confirmed by the [EU Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitats Directives](#). Otherwise biodiversity loss will continue in the EU, compromising the capacity of ecosystems to provide for human needs in the future. In 23 out of 28 Member States, **air quality** standards are still exceeded – in total in over more than 130 cities across Europe. Transport is a main source for air quality problems. Action on reducing environmental **noise**, the second-worst environmental cause of ill health, should also be increased. In **water quality and management**, most Member States struggle to reach full compliance on collection and treatment of urban wastewater, and 13 face EU legal action. Nitrates concentrations and eutrophication levels remain a serious issue in nearly all Member States. There are a **number of root causes common** to several Member States: ineffective coordination between administrative levels, insufficient capacity, and lack of knowledge and data. The launch of the EIR package will be followed by discussions with each Member State, the launch of a peer-to-peer tool to allow Member States to help each other with expertise, and political debates in the Environment Council.

Background

When commonly agreed rules are not properly implemented, the Commission can take legal action. In order to avoid this route, through the process of the Environmental Implementation Review, the Commission will work with Member States to enable them to better apply environmental policies and rules. The Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) is part of the Commission's Better Regulation policy, which includes improving implementation of existing legislation and policies.

7. 2017 EU Citizenship Report: Commission promotes rights, values and democracy

The European Commission publishes its third EU Citizenship Report taking stock of progress since 2014 and further presenting actions to ensure citizens can fully enjoy their rights when working, travelling, studying or participating in elections.

Europeans are more than ever aware of their status as citizens of the Union and the proportion of Europeans wanting to know more about their rights continues to increase. Four out of five Europeans cherish, in particular, the right to free movement that allows them to live, work, study and do



business anywhere in the EU (December 2016 Eurobarometer). However, a lack of awareness means EU citizens do not fully exercise their right to vote in European and local elections and many are unaware of their right to consular protection from other Member States' embassies. The 2017 EU Citizenship Report sets out the Commission's priorities in further raising awareness of these rights and making them easier to use in practice.

Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, responsible for EU citizenship rights, said: *"87% of Europeans are aware of their EU citizenship, which is more than ever before, but they are not always aware of the rights that come with EU citizenship. EU citizenship entails important rights and freedoms and also the possibility for democratic participation and active*

involvement in the EU decision making process. We want to empower citizens to know more about their EU rights and use them more easily." **Dimitris Avramopoulos**, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship: *"The European Union exists for the European citizens and through them. To ensure that EU citizens can fully enjoy their rights and freedoms in times of increasing transnational challenges, we are committed to continuing our work on strengthening security within the EU and by stepping up the protection of our common external borders."* The report is based on input from citizens through surveys and a public consultation, and focuses on four areas: promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values; increasing citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU; simplifying EU citizens' daily lives; strengthening security and promoting equality.

In order to achieve these goals the Commission will take a number of actions, including:

- Organising an EU-wide information campaign on EU citizenship rights, to help citizens better understand their rights.
- Strengthening voluntary engagement: The Commission wants to create more opportunities for young people in Europe to make a meaningful contribution to society and show solidarity.

The [European Solidarity Corps](#), launched on 7 December 2016, gives young people the opportunity to gain valuable experience while showing solidarity to those in need.

- Proposing a 'Single Digital Gateway' to give citizens easy online access to information, assistance and problem-solving services on a wide range of administrative questions.
- Intensifying the Citizens' Dialogues and public debate, to exchange views with EU citizens and increase their understanding of what impact the Union has on their daily lives. Already, 125 Citizens' dialogues have been organised since the beginning of the Juncker Commission.
- Promoting best practices to help citizens vote and stand for EU elections, particularly in the run up to the 2019 elections.

Background

Any person who holds the nationality of an EU Member State is also an EU citizen. EU citizenship does not replace national citizenship, but complements it. It is a valuable status which gives citizens many freedoms such as free movement, consular protection, and the right to vote and stand as candidates in municipal and European Parliament elections wherever they live in the European Union. The European Commission guarantees that rights associated with EU citizenship are a reality for citizens. Since 2010, it reports every three years on the main initiatives taken to promote and strengthen European citizenship. The reports are based on feedback from citizens, from petitions submitted, and from direct dialogues that Commissioners have with citizens. In 2015, the Commission carried out a public consultation and two surveys, which focused on EU citizenship and on electoral rights, to feed into the 2017 EU Citizenship Report.

8. Back to Schengen

The European Commission has today recommended the Council allows Member States to maintain the temporary controls currently in place at certain internal Schengen borders in Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway for a further period of three months.

Despite the progressive stabilisation of the situation and the implementation of a series of measures proposed by the Commission to better manage the external borders and protect the Schengen area, the Commission considers that the conditions of the "Back to Schengen" [Roadmap](#) allowing for a return to a normally functioning Schengen area have not yet been entirely fulfilled. First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: *"Significant progress has been made to lift internal border controls, but we need to solidify it further. This is why we recommend allowing the Member States concerned to maintain temporary border controls for a further three months."* Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs, and Citizenship **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *"Schengen is one of the greatest achievements of EU integration, which we must not take for granted. The European Commission is and remains fully committed to work with Member States in gradually phasing out temporary internal border controls and return to a normal functioning of the Schengen area without internal border control as soon as possible. While over the past months we have been continuously strengthening our measures to address the unprecedented migratory pressure that Europe is facing, we are not there yet unfortunately. That is why we recommend that the Council allows Member States to*



continue limited temporary internal border controls for another three months, under strict conditions, and only as a last resort." In the past months there has been important progress when it comes to securing and better managing the external borders and reducing irregular migration: With the new **European Border and Coast Guard** established since 6 October 2016, the means are being put in place to better protect the external borders of the EU and to react to new developments. With the establishment of the **hotspot system**, the registration and fingerprinting of migrants arriving in Greece and Italy has now reached a rate of almost 100%. The upcoming **systematic checks** against relevant databases for all people crossing the external border, as proposed by the Commission, will further contribute to strengthening the external borders. In addition, the **EU-Turkey Statement** has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers arriving in the EU. However, a significant number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers still remain in Greece and the situation remains fragile on the Western Balkans route, entailing a

potential risk of secondary movements. Furthermore, despite important improvements in the management of the external borders, some of the actions identified by the "Back to Schengen" Roadmap require more time to be fully implemented and to deliver the expected results. As of February 2017, [European Border and Coast Guard](#) operations will assist Greece at the Northern Greek external border. The trend of steady delivery of results of the EU-Turkey Statement needs to be continued and the full application of the Dublin rules in Greece gradually restored as of mid-March. Despite important progress, ongoing work and the situation on the ground point towards the persistence of these exceptional circumstances. The Commission therefore finds it justified on a precautionary basis to allow the Member States concerned, and only after having examined alternative measures, to prolong the current limited internal border controls as an exceptional measure for a further limited period of three months under strict conditions. In particular, any such controls must be targeted and limited in scope, frequency, location and time to what is strictly necessary. The controls concern the same internal borders as those recommended by the Council on 11 November 2016:

- **Austria:** at the Austrian-Hungarian and Austrian-Slovenian land border;
- **Germany:** at the German-Austrian land border;
- **Denmark:** in Danish ports with ferry connections to Germany and at the Danish-German land border;
- **Sweden:** in Swedish harbours in the Police Region South and West and at the Öresund bridge;
- **Norway:** in Norwegian ports with ferry connections to Denmark, Germany and Sweden.

Next Steps

The Council needs to take a decision based on this proposal for a Recommendation. The necessity, frequency, location and time of the controls should continue being reviewed weekly, with the controls adjusted to the level of the threat addressed and phased out when appropriate. Member States continue to be obliged to report promptly on a monthly basis to the Commission on the necessity of the controls being carried out. The Commission also recognises that new security challenges have arisen in the past years, as demonstrated by the recent terrorist attack in Berlin. In this respect, whilst the current legal framework has been sufficient to address the challenges faced until now, the Commission is reflecting on whether it is sufficiently adapted to address evolving security challenges.



The Commission is reflecting on whether it is sufficiently adapted to address evolving security challenges.

Background

The combination of serious deficiencies in the management of the external border by Greece at that time and the significant number of unregistered migrants and asylum seekers present in Greece who may have sought to move irregularly to other Member States, created exceptional circumstances constituting a serious threat to public policy and internal security and endangering the overall functioning of the Schengen area. These exceptional circumstances led to the triggering of the safeguard procedure of Article 29 of the

Schengen Borders Code and the adoption of the Council Recommendation on 12 May 2016 to maintain temporary proportionate controls at certain internal Schengen borders in Germany, Austria, Sweden, Denmark and Norway for a period of six months. On 25 October 2016, the Commission proposed to allow Member States to maintain the temporary internal border controls at the same internal borders for a further period of 3 months, with stricter conditions and a detailed monthly reporting obligation on the outcome of the results for the Member States concerned. Despite the progressive stabilisation of the situation, the Commission considered that the conditions of the "Back to Schengen" Roadmap allowing for a return to a normally functioning Schengen area are yet entirely fulfilled. On 11 November 2016, the Council adopted the Commission proposal. The Commission's proposal for a Recommendation is without prejudice to additional possibilities available to all Member States, including the five affected Member States, under the general rules for temporary reintroduction of internal border control in the event of another serious threat to public policy or internal security, not linked to the serious deficiencies in the management of the external border. For example during the period of application of the Recommendation of 12 May 2016, France, not concerned by this Recommendation, notified the reintroduction and subsequent maintenance of border controls at its internal borders based on grounds related to foreseeable events and terrorist threats.

9. Digital Single Market: new rules allowing Europeans to travel

The rules will reflect new ways in which Europeans enjoy culture and entertainment services online when they travel around the EU.

Europeans will soon be able to fully use their online subscriptions to films, sports events, e-books, video games or music services when travelling within the EU, according to the agreement reached this evening by negotiators of the European Parliament, the Member States and the European Commission. This is the first agreement related to the [modernisation on EU copyright rules](#) as proposed by the Commission in the Digital Single Market strategy.

Vice-President in charge of the Digital Single Market **Andrus Ansip** welcomed the agreement, reached just one week after a [deal on wholesale roaming charges](#): *"This agreement will bring concrete benefits to Europeans. People who have subscribed to their favourite series, music and sports events at home will be able to enjoy them when they travel in Europe. This is a new important step in breaking down barriers in the Digital Single Market. I warmly thank the European Parliament rapporteur Jean-Marie Cavada, the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU and all those involved in reaching compromise. Agreements are now needed on our other proposals to modernise EU copyright rules and ensure a wider access to creative content across borders. I count on the European Parliament and Member States to make it happen"*. Commissioner **Tibor Navracsics**, in charge of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, said: *"Digital technologies provide new opportunities to enjoy cultural content on the go, and people are eager to use them. This agreement opens new doors to citizens while at the same time protecting creators and those investing in the production of cultural or sport content. This balanced solution is an encouraging sign for our efforts to build a Digital Single Market that offers new opportunities for both creators and consumers."*

The new portability rules will fit to new ways Europeans enjoy cultural and entertainment content. In 2016, 64% of Europeans used the internet to play or download games, images, films or music. They did it increasingly through mobile devices. In a survey carried out in 2015, one in three Europeans wanted cross-border portability. For young people, this possibility is even more important. Half of people aged between 15 and 39 years old thought that portability and accessing the service they subscribe to when travelling in Europe is important. The future regulation will enable consumers to access their online content services when they travel in the EU the same way they access them at home. For instance, when



a French consumer subscribes to Canal+ film and series online services, the user will be able to access films and series available in France when he or she goes on holidays to Croatia or for a business trip to Denmark. The online content service providers like Netflix, MyTF1 or Spotify will verify the subscriber's country of residence by using means such as payment details, the existence of an internet contract or by checking the IP address. All providers who offer paid online content services will have to follow the new rules. The services provided without payment (such as the online services of public TV or radio broadcasters) will have the possibility to decide to also provide portability to their subscribers.

Next Steps

The agreed text must now be formally confirmed by the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. Once adopted, the rules will become applicable in all EU Member States by beginning of 2018 as the Regulation grants providers and right holders a 9 month period to prepare for the application of the new rules.

Background

In December 2015 the European Commission proposed a Regulation to broaden access to online content for travellers in the EU. It was the first legal proposal of the Digital Single market strategy, which was completed in September 2016 by modern EU copyright rules to increase cultural diversity in Europe and content available online, while bringing clearer rules for all online players. The Regulation targets those online content services where the application of copyright rules is most relevant. These can be video-on-demand platforms (Netflix, HBO Go, Amazon Prime, Mubi,

Chili TV), online TV services (Viasat's Viaplay, Sky's Now TV, Voyo), music streaming services (Spotify, Deezer, Google Music) or game online marketplaces (Steam, Origin). The main feature of these services is to provide access to content protected by copyright and related rights as well as audiovisual media services. The possibility to have access to online content services when travelling will be even more important from 15 June 2017 when [the new roaming rules](#) enter into force. As of this day, people who travel periodically will pay domestic prices for mobile internet, subject to fair use, irrespective of where they are travelling in the EU (see [recent press release](#)).

10. Europe's energy transition is well underway

The Second Report on the State of the Energy Union shows that the modernisation of the European Union economy and the transition to a low-carbon era are happening. In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy, Europe is on track to reach its 2020 targets. To further drive this process, the Commission is announcing a new Energy Union tour.

In line with its commitment to report annually on the state of the [Energy Union](#), the European Commission is publishing its Second State of the Energy Union Report. This report looks at the progress made since the publication of the [first State of the Energy Union](#) in November 2015. These reports are central elements to monitor the implementation of this key priority of the Juncker Commission. **Maroš Šefčovič**, the Vice-President responsible for the Energy Union, said: *"The Energy Union is about more than energy and climate alone; it is about accelerating the fundamental modernisation of Europe's entire economy, making it low-carbon, energy and resource efficient, in a socially fair manner. We should also strengthen the Energy Union's external dimension, to enhance the EU's global leadership role. Now that a large part of the relevant legislative proposals are on the table, 2017 should be the year of implementation. This is the message that I will bring to Member States during the new Energy Union tour, which I will launch on 3 February"*. **Miguel Arias Cañete**, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, said: *"Europe is well on track to meet its 2020 climate*



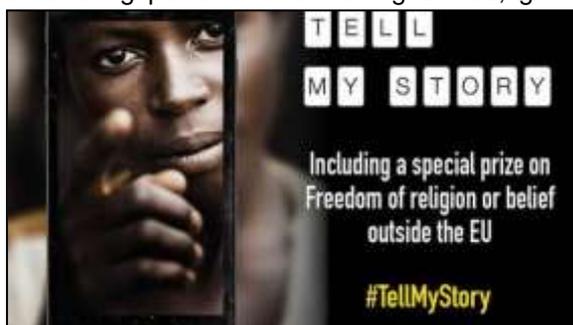
and energy targets. Despite the current geopolitical uncertainties, Europe is forging ahead with the clean energy transition. There is no alternative. And the facts speak for themselves: renewable energy is now cost-competitive and sometimes cheaper than

fossil fuels, employs over one million people in Europe, attracts more investments than many other sectors, and has reduced our fossil fuels imports bill by €16 billion. Now, efforts will need to be sustained as Europe works with its partners to lead the global race to a more sustainable, competitive economy." Since the publication of the first State of the Energy Union, several trends in the EU's transition to a low-carbon economy were continued and strengthened. The Commission will carry out further in-depth analysis of Member States' policies, using the new Energy Union Tour throughout 2017. For the Energy Union, 2016 was the year of delivery where the vision of the Energy Union Framework Strategy was further translated into concrete legislative and non-legislative initiatives, above all with the ["Clean Energy for all Europeans"](#) package presented on 30 November 2016. The EU as a whole has continued to make good progress on delivering the Energy Union objectives, in particular on the 2020 energy and climate targets. It has already achieved its 2020 final energy consumption target. The same is true for greenhouse gas emissions: in 2015, EU greenhouse gas emissions were 22% below the 1990 level. The EU is also on track in the renewable sector where – based on 2014 data – the share of renewables reached 16 % of the EU's gross final energy consumption. Another important trend is that the EU continues to successfully decouple its economic growth from its greenhouse gas emissions. During the 1990-2015 period, the EU's combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 50 %, while total emissions decreased by 22 %. Following the conclusion of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, it was the swift ratification by the EU that enabled the entry into force of the first-ever universal, legally-binding global climate deal on 4 November 2016. In a fast-changing geopolitical environment, a successful Energy Union is crucial to protect the long term economic interests and well-being of Europe and of Europeans. That

is why work on the Energy Union in the past months has included a reinforced focus on energy diplomacy, designed to strengthen security of energy supply, to expand exports of EU low carbon technology solutions and to boost Europe's industrial competitiveness. In 2016, the Commission also presented a European low emission mobility strategy with a clear ambition: by mid-century, greenhouse gas emissions from transport should be at least 60 % lower than in 1990 and be firmly on the path towards zero, while ensuring the mobility needs of people and goods as well as global connectivity.

11. Lorenzo Natali Media Prize 2017

The Lorenzo Natali Media Prize, organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development since 1992, is awarded to amateur and professional journalists for outstanding reporting on development and poverty eradication. Launched with the hashtag #TellMyStory, the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize celebrates the best traditions of journalism in uncovering powerful and moving stories, giving a voice to those who often find it impossible or

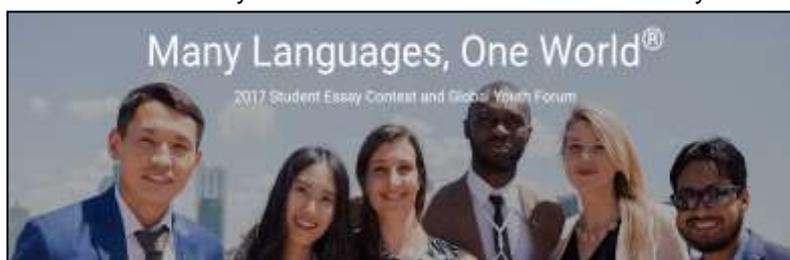


difficult to be heard. The Prize is an opportunity for journalists to demonstrate their commitment to reporting on development and poverty eradication as well as inspiring people to improve lives in their own communities. In addition to the main themes outlined above, this year's competition will have an extra special prize focused on reporting linked to freedom of religion or belief outside the European Union, which contributes covering inspiring stories and initiatives promoting this freedom as well as respect for religious diversity

and inter-religious cooperation. The Special Prize is sponsored by Ján Figel, "Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or belief outside the European Union" appointed by the President of the European Commission in May 2016. The Lorenzo Natali Media Prize will be awarded to one amateur and one professional journalist from each of the following regions: Africa; the Arab World and the Middle East; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Europe. Each winner will be awarded €5 000. One amateur and one professional journalist will also receive the same prize in the special Freedom of Religion or Belief category. Submissions for the main Prize and special category will be assessed by an independent jury, which will also award an additional €5 000 Grand Prize to one of the winners. All 13 winners will receive their awards at a ceremony during the 2017 [European Development Days\(link is external\)](#) in Brussels this June. More information about the application process can be found in the [Rules](#) and [FAQ](#) sections. **Submission of applications to the 2017 Lorenzo Natali Media Prize is now open until 10 March 2017 23:59:59 Central European Time (CET)!**

12. Many Languages, One World 2017 Student Essay Contest

By competing in the Many Languages, One World Student Essay Contest, you could be selected for an all-expense-paid trip to Boston and New York, and present at the United Nations! ELS Educational Services, Inc. and the United Nations Academic Impact are pleased to sponsor the Many Languages, One World 2017 Global Youth Forum. This year we are pleased to welcome Northeastern University as the host of the Many Languages, One World Global Youth Forum and the sponsor and organizer of the Northeastern University Global Youth Conference. To enter you must be a full-time university student and must be 18 years of age or older **by 16 March, 2017**. You must be recommended by a faculty member or authorized representative at the university you are currently attending in order to participate. Your essay may not exceed 2,000 words and should discuss global citizenship, cultural understanding and the role that multilingual ability can



play in fostering these. The essay should reflect personal, academic, cultural, and national context. Entries must be in an official language of the United Nations – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish – that is neither your first language (languages spoken at home) nor the medium of instruction in either your primary or secondary education, or a medium of instruction if attending a bilingual school. ELS and the UNAI created Many Languages, One World to promote multilingualism and the continued study of the six official languages of the United Nations, and to bring global-minded young scholars from all over the world to engage in dialogue about global issues and initiatives. For full contest rules, eligibility and details, visit this link: ManyLanguagesOneWorld.org. To sign up for updates, visit: ManyLanguagesOneWorld.org/MLOWNews.

13. Foundation Academic Merit Scholarships

At the University of Birmingham we are dedicated to building a more diverse and international community of students. To help us welcome a greater number of students from all around the world



we are pleased to introduce a generous Academic Merit Scholarship for 2017. These are all exclusively available to prospective Foundation Pathways students. The Academic Merit Scholarship is for £5,000 towards tuition fees for the one year full-time Foundation programme at the University, starting in

September 2017. All eligible candidates will be considered for this award and selection will be based on academic achievement. **Who can apply:**

To be eligible to apply for an Academic Merit Scholarship, you must meet the conditions below:

- Candidates should have accepted their Foundation offer from the university and have submitted a scholarship application by 30 June 2017.
- Candidates should not be in receipt of any other internal or external scholarship, funding or sponsorship.
- Meet the academic conditions of your offer to the programme.
- Start your studies at the University in September 2017
- Be classed by the University as an overseas fee payer for tuition fee payment, and should be able to fund the remaining costs of your studies at Birmingham from other sources.
- Selection for the award will be based on the above criteria and the answers to questions provided in your application.

How can I apply: We consider applicants based on the information provided in an online application form. The online application form includes general questions about your academic background and includes short, essay-style questions (250 word limit) about academic and extra-curricular achievement. Students who firmly accept their offer will be eligible, shortlisted on the basis of academic merit and selected based on their answers to the essay-style questions. **When is the deadline for applications:** The deadline for applications to the scholarship is **30 June 2017**. You must have accepted your conditional or unconditional offer by this date. **When will the scholarship be awarded:** The full scholarship will be awarded upon enrolment in September 2017. Successful scholarship applicants will be notified of their award before 31 July 2017. [Apply online now.](#)

14. Carnegie Europe offers internships

Carnegie Europe offers three- to six-month internships to support the center's activities in research, communications, and development. Interns are an integral part of Carnegie's growing global network, which includes offices in Beijing, Beirut, Brussels, Moscow, New Delhi, and Washington. Internships are unpaid. Carnegie Europe is not able to provide information on possible external

sources of funding or provide assistance for visa-related matters. Applicants are advised to check with their academic institutions for information about available sources of internship funding.

General requirements Candidates must: Be enrolled in a university or be a recent graduate; be eligible to earn academic credit or receive sponsorship for the internship; have an excellent verbal and written command of English.

Internship periods and application deadlines

- Fall: apply by **June 30** to start in September;
- Fall, Spring, Summer: apply by **October 31** to start in January;
- Summer: apply by **February 28** to start in May.

How to apply

The application process is competitive. Applications will be judged on past academic performance, relevant academic study, and work experience. Personal interviews may be conducted. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other protected group. Housing, costs of living, travel costs, and medical insurance connected with the internship program must be borne by interns or by other institutions or organizations. Interns are responsible for arranging their own travel to Brussels and accommodation. For consideration, applicants must fill out the online application form and upload an English-language résumé and cover letter to the online system. Carnegie Europe will contact only those candidates who are extended an interview.



Communications Intern

Carnegie Europe is seeking a communications intern to work for three to six months in Brussels. The intern will provide overall support to the communications team, which is responsible for Carnegie Europe's website management, social media outreach, media monitoring and press relations, public and private event organization, publication production and promotion, and database management. Responsibilities will include assisting with marketing research projects and web analysis reports; supporting media monitoring and outreach efforts; contributing to the promotion of Carnegie publications; helping maintain the center's contacts database; and providing organizational and logistical support for a variety of public and private events. To apply, please submit your English Resume/CV and cover letter via the Carnegie Endowment [website](#).

Development and Fundraising Intern

Carnegie Europe is seeking a development and fundraising intern to work for three to six months in Brussels. The intern will provide overall support to the development team, which is responsible for Carnegie Europe's strategic development and fundraising initiatives. Responsibilities will include assisting with research on donor investment profiles and patterns as well as funding instruments and procedures; contributing to the quality expansion of Carnegie Europe's stakeholder database; and drafting proposals, reports, and summaries for current and potential projects. To apply, please submit your English Resume/CV and cover letter via the Carnegie Endowment [website](#).

Program and Research Intern

Carnegie Europe is seeking a program and research intern to work for three to six months in Brussels. The intern will provide overall support to Carnegie Europe's scholars and program team, which is responsible for Carnegie Europe's strategic programmatic, project, and research activities. Responsibilities will include assisting with research on topics ranging from EU treaties and institutions to European security, migration, and refugee challenges to EU-Turkey relations; conducting background research to support the work of Carnegie Europe scholars; and drafting issue monitors, research briefs, and event reports. To apply, please submit your English Resume/CV and cover letter via the Carnegie Endowment [website](#).

15. Concluded VET4Start-Up project. Now the reporting phase



The KA² Strategic Partnership project VET4StartUp (Erasmus Plus - KA2 VET) is ended on last 31 December. In the last phase of the European project, coordinated by the Association EURO-NET, the partners have been engaged in intensive dissemination activities of the project products, primarily the MOOC platform of e-learning for startup

and Guide for Creativity entrepreneurship. The promotion and dissemination were held thanks to Multipliers Events in Italy (Potenza and Rome), Denmark, Malta and the United Kingdom. Now we move to the final reporting stage.

16. Concluded the first meeting in Sofia the project "Newave in learning"

From 9 to 12 January (including travel days) was held the first meeting in Sofia of the project "Newave in learning", which was attended by two persons of EURO-NET Association. The partnership is coordinated by the organization Narodno chitalishte "Badeshte sega 2006" (Bulgaria). The project, approved in the framework of the European program Erasmus Plus KA2, is engaged in the development and improvement of the skills of trainers and teachers in adult education through the implementation in their educational practice of an innovative methodology for the development, design, teaching and assessment of learning outcomes. The project partners are: EURO-NET (Italy); Narodno chitalishte "Badeshte sega 2006" (Bulgaria); Centar za obrazovanie neformalno TRIAGOLNIK (FYROM); Biderbost, Boscan & Rochin (Spain). More information about the project will be provided in our next newsletter.

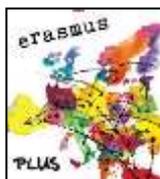


17. First actions of EuroYouth project MEDIALAB

The EuroYouth MEDIALAB project is finally in realization in Italy, where there was some delay due to the recording of our staff employment contracts. The project, approved by the French National Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2, sees the participation of Europe Direct centers of the following 10 partner countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain, Finland, France (coordinating country), Poland, Slovakia, Ireland North (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 it today. In the last weeks, as mentioned earlier, the first actions foreseen in the project started also in Potenza and different meetings with the group of 20 young people who is participating in the initiative as a "local group." More details on the actions carried out and those to be carried out will be provided in our next newsletter.



18. Erasmus KA1 new projects approved



We are pleased to inform you that our Europe Direct center, despite the change of the programs and the serious difficulties of approval of these that have been reported all over Europe for the small number of community initiatives granted, is still distinguished by the positive results, obtaining approval, in the last days of 2016 and in the first weeks of 2017, of new Erasmus Plus projects. the actions financed cover the following Key actions 1 initiatives (the so-called KA1):

- "Hands Up for Europeers"
- "Creative Partnership Initiatives to Empower Young People"
- "PBA: A tipping point to Inclusion"
- "Erasmus Generation vs Eurosceptics: let's hear our voice for the future of the EU"
- "Online portfolios: Use of ICT for the registration and assessment of lifelong learning"
- "EuroMed Network of Civil Society Youth"
- "Solidarity for the Environment"

So also this year we will be able to answer effectively to the expectations of the young and not so young people in our region! So stay tuned numerous in all our initiatives and activities because we will continue to offer you the opportunity to enjoy unforgettable experiences. And good Europe to all.

19. KA3 approved the project "In blind football, everybody wins"

It was approved the project "In blind football, everybody wins" in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA3 Sport. The purpose of this project is to create training activities in sport for teachers who have to work with young people with visual impairment. In the project are foreseen many international meetings in which the leaders of the various partner organizations will be engaged in the development of European action. More details about the project will be provided on our next newsletter.



20. Network NEFELE was born!

January 28, 2017, in Athens, was formally established the network "NEFELE" realized within the project "NEFELE - NETWORKING EUROPEAN FESTIVALS FOR MENTAL LIFE ENHANCEMENT" (action n. 559274-CREATE-1-2015-1-ELCULT- COOP1), cofunded by the European Union in the framework of the program "Creative Europe". The Network NEFELE was one of the primary



objectives of Community activity. Also our association is part of the network and indeed our delegate, Antonino Imbesi, was voted by the assembly of members within the international board elected to direct the European network. The aim of the network will be to strengthen all kinds of artistic creations related to the field of mental health and to fight stigmatization of society in general. The purpose of the creation of this network, in fact, is precisely to keep alive the project

activities because the good ideas developed in the initiative of "Creative Europe" now have to survive to the project and continue to be implemented. The NEFELE network was born, finally, with the fundamental goal of trying to create social change in Europe in the mental health sector.

21. NEFELE final conference in Athens

In the last days of January took place in Athens the final conference scheduled in the project "NEFELE - NETWORKING EUROPEAN FESTI-VALS FOR MENTAL LIFE enhan-CEMENT" (action n. 559274-CREATE-1-2015-1-ELCULT-COO P1) . The purpose of the conference, hosted on January 27th in the main greek museum of Athens (the so-called Acropolis museum) was to describe the benefits achieved with the European project and to permit the officially birth of the first artistic network for organizations working in the field of mental illness. During the conference, the partners of the initiative explained the activities carried out during the project and have exposed the objectives that have been able to achieve thanks to it.



22. Ended the SPAHCO project meeting in Potenza

In the period 22-25 January 2017 it took place the second meeting of the project "STRONGER PARENTS - HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES (SPAHCO)", approved in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for the Adult Education. The meeting, hosted by EURO-NET, in Potenza was attended by the delegates from each of the six foreign partners. The goal of the project is to develop ICT tools (including an electronic game) and innovative methodologies to parents, to make them more aware of the importance of carrying out healthier lifestyles and offering them activities and tools to achieve these goals. During the whole meeting a particular attention was given to the development of actions and intellectual products to be created in order to reach people with fewer opportunities and was also tackled the realization of the www.spahco.eu project website.



23. Join the online course for youth workers: deadline is next 22/02/2017

The EURO-NET association within the project "The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker", an initiative of Strategic Partnerships KA2, approved by the Romanian National Agency Erasmus Plus, provides an important online course to certify the skills of the "youth workers". The deadline for adhering at the course is next 22/02/2016 while the course will start in March 2017 and will be completed in the next month. There will be participants from all the countries of the European Union, and in particular EURO-NET, as project partner, is looking for interested participants from Macedonia, Finland, Slovenia and of course Italy. The participants, upon registration, will have to choose EURO-NET as a partner who recommended the course. For more information on the European project and also to realise own registration for the training course it is possible to go on the following web site of EURO-NET www.synergy-net.info in the section on "projects in realisation". Then it is necessary to choose the project "The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker" and click on the online course for youth workers where you will find the appropriate link for the registration.



24. ENT-NET: struggling with translations of all online courses

The project "ENT-NET - Promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship through a network training" is a project cofounded by the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education (Action no. 2015-1-ES01-KA204-015882). Firstly, the project aims to create a sustainable network to develop, transfer and implement good and innovative practices and methodologies for adult education and, secondly, to create an innovative entrepreneurship training for adults in Europe. This 2-year project aims to promote and enhance entrepreneurship and self-employment to answer to the three major problems that adults face nowadays: high rates of unemployment, lack of basic knowledge for opening and running a business and the deeply theoretical nature of entrepreneurship education. The project target groups are: adults with qualifications, low-skilled and unskilled, and women. The



project aims to engage directly over 1000 people as direct participants in the training activities. Right now our operators are struggling with translations of all the online courses. For more information about the activities you can visit the official web site of the project: <http://www.ent-net.eu>

25. Ended the sixth meeting in Budapest of EURBANITIES project

In the first week of February was held in Budapest, the sixth meeting of the project "EURbanities - Empowering civil participation through game based learning" - approved by the German National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education (action n.2015-1-DE02-KA204-002434). During the meeting, which was attended by one member of our staff, were discussed the state of development of the initiative and other project activities to be developed in the coming months. It has also been show the electronic game scenery that the technicians of the association EURO-NET are realising. More details on the next issues of our newsletter.



26. Online the web site of the project EURBANITIES



We are pleased to inform you that finally is online the official web site of the project "EURbanities - empowering civil participation through game based learning" (approved by the German National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The web site contains all information about the project and its objectives, as well as the foreseen outcomes and the international partnership that is developing it. For more information, please visit the official web site of the project: www.eurbanities.org.

27. Concluded the meeting of the project "Safer Places Hopeful Refugees"

In the period 8-11 February, in Çanakkale, in Turkey, was realised the first meeting of the project "Safer Places Hopeful Refugees", approved in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Turkish National Agency. Representatives of the partner countries (Turkey, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Greece and Austria) attended the meeting. The main objective of the project is to exchange good practices on the reception of refugees and migrants trying also to give them support because existing policies of governments cannot always meet their needs. For this reason, the project aims to promote positive actions for refugees with new



initiatives at local and international level. The project objectives are: to strengthen the capacity of organizations working for refugees and even the skills of its personnel; to increase sustainability and global solidarity; to promote international cooperation and intercultural communication; to enhance social inclusion and equal opportunities for Refugees; to develop networks and links at local, national and international level. The photos show some moments of the meeting. More details on the next issues of our newsletter.

30. Gender Portrays Through Media: short the youth exchange

In the next few days (and exactly in the week 7-14 March 2017) will take place in Lezhe, Albania, the youth exchange titled "REPORTING EQUALITY". The youth meeting foresees the participation of 1 leader and 4 young people over 18 from our organisation. During the exchange, representatives from all partner countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Kosovo, FYROM and Italy) will meet together. The program of activities provides an insight into social issues of the media used by young people. More information on upcoming issues of our newsletter.



31. Start-up meeting of “Gender Perspective in EU Mobility Programs” project



The first meeting of the project "Gender Perspective in EU Mobility Programs" is expected in Turkey in the first week of March (and exactly in the period 5-8 March). The project, approved in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Turkish National Agency, aims to integrate the gender perspective in the EU mobility programs and thus increase the visibility of gender issues in youth organizations. It is clear, in fact, that gender discrimination is a global / transnational problem and has effects on the entire life of young women all over the world including Europe, where discriminatory actions or sexual harassment still persist against them. Therefore, the project, discussing prevention tips against the measures and the development of reliable solutions, will help increase the quality of women's mobility in exchange programs. The project objectives are the following:

- to explore the experiences of discriminatory actions against young women in exchange programs in partner countries;
- to focus the best support practices for young women;
- to establish and promote new tools and mechanisms of solidarity/networking, in order to reinforce, firstly, young women;
- to develop new models for public services;
- to encourage young women to be active players, while promoting innovative solutions;
- to support gender policies for the coordinators of EU mobility programs at local and international level;
- to develop new mechanisms to prevent the unfair treatment and abuse of rights against women.

The project partners are the following organizations: Toplum Gonulluleri Vakfi (Turkey); United Societies of Balkans (Greece); Foundation for Empowering Gender Equality (Malta); EURO-NET (Italy); YASAR UNIVERSITESI (Turkey); Rede Portuguesa de Jovens para a Igualdade de Oportunidades entre Mulheres e Homens (Portugal). More information on upcoming issues of our newsletter.